



Celebrating Our Volunteers

We are grateful for our volunteers every day!



During National Volunteer Week (20-26 May) we celebrated our volunteers.

Elaine Healy, our Volunteer Engagement Advisor, organised thank you volunteer celebration events across the organisation.



Many of our volunteers were nominated for the WA Volunteer of the Year Awards and a group of volunteers enjoyed an evening Gala Presentation Dinner for these awards at the Crown Perth.



Reece Whitby MLA visiting Tranby College

Our wonderful Uniting Church Schools are supporting us in making Winter Warmer Backpacks for people who are unable to access housing and are sleeping rough.

Each school has developed innovative ways to encourage donations.

Reece Whitby MLA is helping Tranby College support our Winter Warmer with a generous donation of a bike as an incentive for students to bring in donations.

Bringing Winter Warmth

Winter is now upon us, and we see increasing numbers of people looking for assistance.

You can help us bring warmth and light to people during the darker winter months.

We welcome gifts of food and clothing to be dropped off to our hubs in Aberdeen Street, Merriwa and Fremantle or to any Uniting Church Congregation.



Winter Warmers Wish List

Material assistance

We need your help to make a practical and positive difference in the lives of Perth people experiencing homelessness this winter.

Donations of pantry item food, socks, underwear, and toiletries are always welcomed at our Place Hubs.

UCW Place Hubs

Inner City Hub
10/5 Aberdeen St, Perth

South West Metro Hub
10-12 Market Street, Fremantle

Outer North Hub
56 Baltimore Parade, Merriwa



Uniting
Care West

News
Makuru

Edition 07

NDIS roll out



A message from our Head of Service Operations Michael Chester

Despite significant challenges in the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), UnitingCare West (UCW) is committed to being part of a well-functioning and cohesive scheme which delivers successful outcomes for participants.

In WA, the slow progress of the roll-out has already caused significant distress for current and potential participants and their families. It is taking longer than expected for people to enter the scheme and longer again for them to receive the support they need.

UCW is actively encouraging open and frank discussion about the issues we face as a society in the vitally important goal of making the NDIS a success.

You can read our full position statement about the NDIS rollout on our website under News and Events, titled NDIS National Day of Action.

www.unitingcarewest.org.au

Welcome to Makuru

This seventh edition of UCW News is named after the Noongar season of fertility, Makuru. Running from June to July, Makuru is the coldest and wettest time of the year, with frequent gales and storms.

New App helps tackle homelessness



An innovative new ID App has been developed for the Street Law Centre to help people experiencing homelessness access identification documents, such as bank records, birth certificates and photo ID cards, connecting them with housing, employment, education and other vital services.

Street Law Chair Drew Broadfoot said, "Community workers have long highlighted issues with getting ID for the people they assist, and this can severely delay their ability to progress with housing, employment, rehabilitation and driving."

UCW hosted an event at our Tranby Centre on 13 May where the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, The Hon Peter Quinlan, officially launched the App.



The Hon Peter Quinlan and UCW Chair, Peter Fitzpatrick AO



Legal Aid WA lawyer Alison Pidgeon and UnitingCare West Outer North Hub manager Tracy Tuari.
Photographer: Martin Kennealey, Community News

“UCW is at the front line in providing support for individuals and families doing it tough, including emergency relief, housing and financial counselling.”

Legal Aid comes to Merriwa

A new outreach service at our Outer North Hub in Merriwa will provide another level of support for locals struggling to keep up with mortgage repayments.

The service was established by Legal Aid WA (LAWA) in response to a dramatic jump in the number of people seeking help and unable to pay their mortgage. Merriwa, Midland and Baldivis have been identified as Perth’s worst affected suburbs for mortgage distress.

Outer North Place Manager Tracy Tuari said the new Statewide Mortgage Hardship Service would provide locals with easier access to a lawyer with specialist experience in credit and debt matters.

“Demand for assistance through our Financial Wellbeing Service has never been higher,” Ms Tuari said.

For an appointment with
LAWA call 1300 650 579

For financial support call UCW’s
Financial Wellbeing Services on
9220 1255

Celebrating our new Inner City Hub



Rev Steve Francis (centre) meeting us in the ICH new foyer space

On 12 April, Moderator Rev Steve Francis joined us at our Inner City Hub to bless our people and our new work space.

“It was such a privilege to participate in blessing UCW. It felt like we were on sacred ground,” Rev Francis said.

“I was personally moved by learning from the staff about the great work you are all doing. It was very special for me to share in the hopes and struggles of a remarkable team of people.”

Rev Francis joined the team for a post-blessing celebration catered with food from Second Bite which would otherwise have gone to waste.

Domestic Violence Support

Your Toolkit is a valuable new resource that has been launched to help women facing domestic and family violence and financial abuse to better manage their lives.

It contains comprehensive information on managing finances, accessing support services, how to call for help, where to go in an emergency and much more.

Visit yourtoolkit.com.au to find out more about this great new initiative.



Stay connected across social media



Stretching our commitment to Reconciliation



Teanne Hayden, Josey Hansen and Thomas Worrigal

UCW has been working on delivering a new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

This is UCW’s second RAP, the first being an Innovate RAP and this one a Stretch RAP.

Since February this year, we’ve been holding Cultural Confidence Workshops in Armadale, Fremantle, Merriwa and Perth to help grow knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal Ways.

Our Cultural Champions Thomas (TeeJay) Worrigal and Teanne Hayden, with the support of UCW’s Cultural Architect, Josey Hansen, guide participants to reflect deeply on topics such as the concept of Aboriginal culture; importance of history; language differences; and Kinship and Law.

Pictured right: UCW Stretch RAP Painting by artist Thomas Worrigal

Stretch RAP Artwork

As well as being a cultural champion at UCW, Teejay is an artist raised on Gooniyandi Country in the central Kimberley. UCW recently commissioned him to create a work for our Stretch RAP, which he describes below.



“The bottom part of the painting is the people, families and individuals walking into the centre circle seeking support. The centre circle is UCW a support circle.”

On the top half of the painting is the growth of people with foot prints meaning walking together into a better supportive future.

All the leaves represent growth.

Connecting circles represent strong and connected support.

The colours are our Aboriginal earthy colours and the local flowers in which land we are on, Noongar, Wajuk people country.”



Rainbow Friendship Group Volunteers

Rainbow Lunches to Celebrate 20 Years

On 5th June 2019, the Rainbow Friendship Groups will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary.

The Rainbow Friendship Groups are completely volunteer run and are open to anyone who is looking to connect with other people in their local community.

We have groups running in Duncraig, Maylands, Wembley Downs, Como, Claremont and soon to be opened, East Perth.

For more information contact Larissa Muir or Lucy Twynham on 1300 663 298.