



New art to celebrate the life of Uniting team member.

Uniting Participant, Kirsty, is an accomplished artist who has sold her work for many years. She's also moved states 3 times, worked in art galleries, completed a university degree and has now teamed up with an author to publish a children's book.

Some of her art was recently spotted by the parents of Eden Knight, a Service Lead with Uniting Individualised Services who sadly passed away last year. Eden's parents were wowed by her artwork and impressed by her story.

Eden's parents decided to purchase a painting from Kirsty and donate it to Uniting so it could be displayed in the home where Eden worked. That was the easy part. The hard part was deciding which piece to buy, as there were so many amazing pieces to choose from. They finally settled on Coastal Daisybush at the Lagoon, which will be hung at the house with a plaque to acknowledge Eden and his family.

Kat Campbell, Practice Lead Individualised Services, said the painting would brighten up the house like Eden brightened up the workplace.

Kirsty identifies as living with mental health challenges. We provide support to Kirsty via the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

See more of Kirsty's art at [facebook.com/kirstylee74](https://www.facebook.com/kirstylee74).

Reconciliation Week 2021 — Street Banner Project.

We're thrilled that Tee Jay Worrigal, our Cultural Navigator, had his artwork chosen for the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Street Banner Project for Reconciliation Week 2021.

Tee Jay's artwork is being displayed on more than 300 banners across WA.

Reconciliation Week is celebrated every year from 27 May to 3 June, commemorating 2 significant milestones — the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.

The theme for 2021 is "More than a word. Reconciliation takes action."

Learn more about Reconciliation Week at [reconciliation.org.au](https://www.reconciliation.org.au), and learn about our Commitment to Reconciliation on our website.



Uniting volunteer journeys.

“I have this great opportunity to develop my interpersonal skills and engage with people in a respectful, non-judgemental way.

“During my volunteering experience, I can see the clients have a need for food and shelter – but what they seem to crave the most is for someone to talk to and listen to them, especially those experiencing loneliness and isolation.

“I always say, everyone has a story that they just want to tell.”

Sandra — Tranby Engagement Hub volunteer since 2020.

Read more of Sandra’s story on the News and Resources page of our website.



Youth voices in social justice.

The Uniting WA Social Justice Youth Forum was held at Presbyterian Ladies’ College (PLC) in February 2021.

In collaboration with Young Change Agents, we provided time and space for around 40 Uniting Church school Social Justice students to discuss challenging issues in their community and create potential solutions.

The students practiced skills like developing new concepts, assessing and testing the concept and then receiving feedback from their peers. The ideas and solutions the students created were mainly focused on youth mental health.

The forum provided an opportunity for students to build confidence in their abilities and develop into caring, connected and socially engaged citizens who actively contribute to the wellbeing of their communities.



Save paper and receive this newsletter by email. Contact comms@unitingwa.org.au or sign up on our website.

Uniting WA kaadidj Noongar Moort Keyen Kaadak nidja boodja narnga ngaala yangka ngaalang noondakiny maar. Ngaala karnitj-djinang baalabiny kooranyi Midjiyoop boodja kepa. Ngaala maara-baron yira-ak kooralong kalyakool Bardip Yira-Maaman boodjara karroyal ngaala karodjin Koorakor birdiyar, koora, yeyi.

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Uniting

A new way to communicate.

Liam (name changed) is a young person in Uniting Foster Care who has experienced significant trauma, is living with disabilities and is a non-verbal communicator.

He's recently been supplied with a communication device which enabled him to communicate with his brothers (who are supported in one of our Family Group Homes) for the first time. Using the new device, Liam was able to tell his brothers "I miss you," "I am okay" and "I love you."

The children and carers were extremely moved by this experience.

Got mumness or dadness to spare?

If you've got more 'mumness' or 'dadness' than you know what to do with, we need people like you to support children with high-care needs who aren't able to live in their own homes due to illness, disability, abuse and neglect.

We'll give you the practical and financial support you need to change a child's life for the better.

What might surprise you is how your life will change for the better too.

Visit unitingwa.org.au/fostercare for more information.



Our new Tranby Engagement Hub — a space fit for purpose.

In late 2019, we received a grant from Lotterywest to renovate our Tranby Homelessness Engagement Hub.

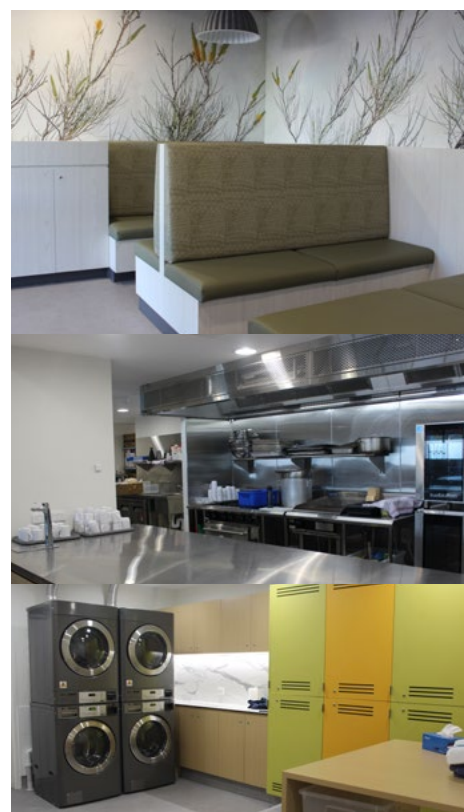
The new Tranby design includes more versatile, welcoming and appropriate spaces for the people we support and co-locating services like doctors and dentists.

Key features include a better layout and increased space in the kitchen, dedicated counselling rooms, laundry facilities and improved safety in and around the bathrooms.

This project wouldn't have been possible without our amazing project supporters:

Lotterywest, Shape Australia, Australian Nursing Federation, MKDC, Project Directors Australia, Ryder Levitt Bucknall, PGD Engineering, Richard Jay, Caterlink and Sophie Budd.

Thank you for helping us to walk alongside the people we exist for.



A moment with Amanda.

Makuru is one of my favourite times — I find it so energising to get up in the crisp, dark, early morning to take my dog for a walk. As the sun rises, I think about how we've all been changed by the past 12 months. Sometimes it's felt like we've been "hurrying slowly" — so much frantic activity followed by periods of enforced stillness. I've never been so busy, but I've rarely spent so much time at home.

I'm so grateful for how lightly we've been touched by COVID-19 in WA, especially as we watch it continue to devastate other communities. I'm hoping that, globally, something we've learned is the transformational power of gratitude.

Uniting WA has also transformed. On the outside we look different to the way we did a year ago, with a new brand that supports our strategic plan, purpose and values.

On the inside we've completely revamped the way we operate — our commitment to efficiency and value has been accelerated as we adopted emerging technology and systems changes so we could continue to support people during a rapidly evolving crisis. We've also rejuvenated our Tranby Engagement Hub, not just physically but to a new collaborative way of working with people experiencing homelessness and our sector partners.



But we haven't changed our heart or our reason for existing. We always remember that we are here for the people we support. And we prioritise building relationships and creating connections because we recognise that is the foundation for creating change.

As winter progresses, I'd like to ask you to join us as we walk alongside people and empower them to make positive change in their own lives. Donations from the Uniting community help us to provide expert advice, emergency accommodation and meet the basic needs that support people to make changes in their lives.

Thank you, we're so grateful for your support.

Amanda Hunt
Chief Executive Officer

What your support means.



Over \$24,000 raised for people affected by the Gidgegannup bushfires, in collaboration with Tradelink and the Uniting Church WA Disaster Relief Fund.



500 Christmas Hampers provided to people we support.



870 vulnerable people in our community provided with food, Coles vouchers and emergency accommodation over Christmas.



In the past 12 months, over 300 volunteers have donated 18,000 hours of their time.

Donate online at unitingwa.org.au/donate