

Uniting together

Uniting WA Impact Report



Your Reach and Impact

In 2022-2023 you helped us support:

313 children and their families

Children and Family Therapeutic Services and Children's Counselling

355

parents and their children

Strengthening Families programs



1737

cases of people experiencing intimate partner violence
Escaping Violence Payment

70,860

presentations by people experiencing homelessness
Tranby Engagement Hub

355

people with disability
Disability Advocacy services

2772

people provided with material assistance
Emergency Relief





“If it weren’t for the HEART team, we might be still sleeping in the car.”

Andrew*, Father supported by HEART.

Working families: the new face of homelessness.

A concerning trend is emerging in WA; homelessness is on the rise among working families. Many mums and dads who had previously been able to get by are finding that their pay checks are no longer enough to make ends meet.

Many people in this situation don’t know where to turn, or they hesitate to seek help. For many, the stigma of seeking support is too much to bear.

This is where the **Homeless Engagement Assessment Response Team (HEART)**, a multi-agency partnership, comes in. Every day, HEART team members head out into the streets, parks, reserves and beaches of Perth to connect with people who are sleeping rough. The HEART social outreach service provides immediate support and connects people with the services they need.

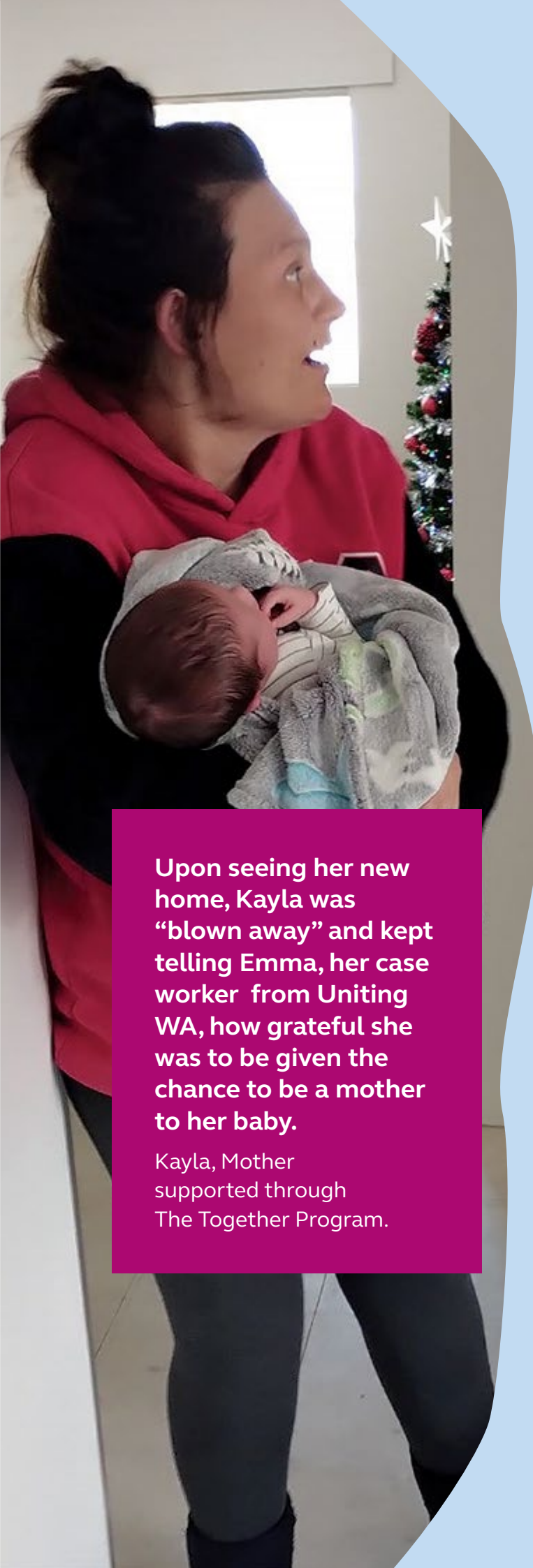


William, Uniting WA HEART Support Worker.

When Uniting WA HEART Support Worker, William, found Andrew and his 7-year-old son sleeping in their hot car during summer, they had been homeless for months. Their rental had been sold and they could not afford to rent anywhere else.

William initially organised food vouchers, temporary accommodation and medical care for Andrew and his son, before working with Andrew to figure out his finances, so he and his son were able to move out of their car and into a new rental in time for Christmas.

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.



Breaking the cycle of disadvantage for mums and bubs at risk.

The first 1,000 days of a child's life are crucial for long-term development and wellbeing.

Stable housing, health care for both mother and child, and nurturing support from the people around them is something most soon-to-be mums take for granted, but women who find themselves pregnant and homeless are often lacking these resources, resulting in an increased risk of losing custody after their child is born.

The inevitable result is often the perpetuation of intergenerational trauma for both the mother and the child.

Recognising the benefits of supporting mothers to recover and retain custody of their children, Uniting WA has partnered with Homeless Healthcare to launch a new initiative – called **The Together Program** – which supports pregnant women and new mothers facing homelessness, together with their babies.

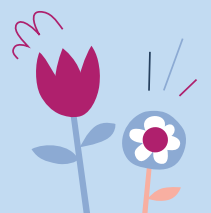
The goal is to empower women in these situations, and ensure they have a range of supports that will ultimately help them maintain long-term custody of their babies.

Just after Christmas, Mother Kayla and newborn son Zayden moved in as the very first participants of The Together Program. Kayla was pregnant, living on the street and just weeks off her due date when she was referred to The Together Program from King Edward Memorial Hospital.

We look forward to welcoming more mothers to the program throughout the year.

Upon seeing her new home, Kayla was “blown away” and kept telling Emma, her case worker from Uniting WA, how grateful she was to be given the chance to be a mother to her baby.

Kayla, Mother supported through The Together Program.





Just two hours volunteering can change someone's life.

At Uniting WA, you can volunteer as often as you like. Book shifts that suit you at our Tranby Engagement Hub, and support those experiencing homelessness.

For groups like your local rotary, book club or even your workplace, you can give back to the community while team building with **'Recipe for Change'**, a program where groups of 15 explore the issues surrounding homelessness, tour Tranby and prepare meals to nourish service users the next day.

For Leighton, volunteering hadn't initially crossed his mind much but now he has started, he can't get enough. He regularly volunteers 2-3 shifts a week.

"You know that people are sleeping rough and are in need of essential living supplies, but as you aren't exposed to it and just read it in the newspapers or watch the TV. It is an entirely different thing when you are present and amongst those actually doing it tough."

**"...don't procrastinate,
just make it happen.
It really is eye opening..."**

Leighton, a regular
Uniting volunteer.

Wondering how you can get involved?

To donate to support our critical services head to unitingwa.org.au/donate

Alternatively, you can complete the form with this Impact Report and return it in the Reply-Paid envelope provided or call us on **9220 1222**.

If you're interested in volunteering at Uniting WA, visit unitingwa.org.au/get-involved/volunteer



Scan to find out more