

# Uniting together

Impact newsletter.  
Spring 2025

**Your support  
has made huge  
impact.**



**You changed**  
lives at Tranby  
for people  
experiencing  
homelessness.

**You inspired**  
young people  
in Care as they  
enter into  
adulthood.

**You empowered**  
Lived Experience  
Advocates to  
share their stories  
of resilience and  
hope.



**Uniting**

# Empowering **lives** at Tranby Engagement Hub.

## How much battery is on your phone?

**For people experiencing homelessness, a working mobile phone can be a lifeline, connecting them to family, job opportunities, and emergency assistance. Yet, for many sleeping rough, the simple act of charging a device can be nearly impossible.**

At Tranby Engagement Hub, the small charging station in the kitchen often disrupted volunteers distributing essentials, dishwashing and preparing meals. The setup was inefficient for both volunteers and service users.

Thanks to you, we have been able to introduce a new and improved mobile phone charging station. Now in a more accessible location and managed by staff, this setup means that people no longer have to wait in line at the kitchen or interrupt essential meal services just to power up their phones.

Access is now safer, more reliable, and better organised, offering peace of mind for service users who depend on their devices for critical communication. It has made daily life a little less uncertain for people sleeping rough.

## Self-care and connection.

Held every Tuesday, Tranby Women's Group offers a vital space for connection, care, and empowerment.

Each week, participants gather to assemble care packages from donated and purchased items, including essentials and the occasional comforting touches like face masks. This nurturing environment has had a profound impact on many of the women.

Recently, the Group were touched by the generosity of volunteer beautician Kadee, who donated her time to provide manicures. Thanks to your support, Tranby was able to supply nail polish, making it possible for women to enjoy a small but meaningful act of self-care. Two participants shared that it was their first-ever experience of having their nails done.

The Women's Group not only fosters a sense of dignity and self-worth, but also builds a supportive community where women can relax, connect, and feel valued. By prioritising these moments of care, Tranby helps to restore hope and confidence for these vulnerable women.



# Wondering how you can get involved?



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.

If you're interested in volunteering at Uniting WA and having real impact, visit [unitingwa.org.au/get-involved/volunteer](https://unitingwa.org.au/get-involved/volunteer).

To donate to support our critical services head to [unitingwa.org.au/donate](https://unitingwa.org.au/donate).

Want to know more? Call us on 9220 1222.

## Building futures.

### Life skills camp for young people in Out of Home Care.

Young people in Out of Home Care services transition to independence when they turn 18 years old. However, unlike their peers who may receive guidance and life skills support from family, these young people often lack consistent support systems, making this transition a daunting one.

Thanks to your generous support, Uniting WA recently held a life skills camp for five of these teens. Working with Kylie from Horse Kinect, the camp was designed to equip the young people with practical skills and foster leadership through hands-on experiences. From cooking and farm management to changing tyres and riding horses, the camp offered a rich blend of learning and adventure.

**"I was being taught things that parents usually teach you."**

Leon, a camp attendee



The first night set the tone with a bonfire and guitar session, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere that encouraged connection and storytelling. Two siblings who were barely speaking to each other found harmony through nature and animals, transforming their relationship from silence to friendship. Another young person rediscovered his passion for art after years of feeling uninspired. For many, it was their first time interacting closely with animals such as horses, and the experience sparked new career aspirations. One young person is now exploring the idea of becoming a chef on a station. Above all, the camp offered a sense of belonging, with the young people expressing joy at spending time with others who shared similar life experiences.



Rochelle, a foster carer with Uniting WA.



## Foster carers aren't superhuman. They're just human.

If you're worried about being "perfect enough", you might already have what it takes to be a foster carer.

Rochelle thought about foster caring for 15 years before signing on. She wished she had not waited so long.

**"I didn't know if I could become a foster carer because I was a single mum who worked full time. When I realised a child just needs love and security, it was an easy decision."**

To learn more about becoming a foster carer with Uniting WA, search 'Uniting WA Foster Care' or email us at [fostercare@unitingwa.org.au](mailto:fostercare@unitingwa.org.au).

## Making voices heard.

Individuals with lived experiences, whether it be homelessness, mental health challenges, family breakdown, or systemic disadvantage, offer unique perspectives on how these life challenges can truly affect people. Their firsthand knowledge doesn't just inform our work; it transforms it.

Though still in its early stages, the Lived Experience program at Uniting WA is already having a profound impact. Since last year's The Path Home photography exhibit, which featured seven individuals with diverse experiences of homelessness, our Lived Experience Advocates (LEA) have grown in both confidence and influence. One LEA, Bernie, now shares her story with corporate audiences through our Recipe for Change team building program, while another LEA, Jodie, has joined Uniting WA as a Peer Support Worker, using her lived experience to guide others on their path.

This year, three more LEAs—Emma, Paul, and James—joined the program and shared their stories in The Path Home campaign which included a short documentary film. Paul has since spoken to students at Wesley College through the Katitjin social justice program,



Lived Experience Advocates with Uniting WA team members at the screening of The Path Home in August.

helping young people understand the realities of homelessness and driving positive change.

The monthly LEA mingles are more than just social gatherings, they enable reflection, connection and a sense of belonging. They have made lasting friendships, celebrated milestones, and gained the confidence to speak up and lead. As Emma shared, "I never thought my story could help someone else. Now I know it can." These voices are not just being heard, they're reshaping the future of our services and inspiring change across the community.

To explore The Path Home 2025 and watch the documentary, visit the Uniting WA website at [unitingwa.org.au/path-home](http://unitingwa.org.au/path-home).