

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**To: News Editor**  
**From: UnitingCare West, Media Contact – Michelle Snowden, 9355 9023**

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### **UnitingCare West, announced as successful tender**

UnitingCare West is pleased to have been announced as a successful tender for the provision the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FAHCSIA) Personal Helpers and Mentors Program.

This program is part of the implementation of the Council of Australian Government (COAG) National Action Plan on Mental Health. The Personal Helpers and Mentors Program assists people with severe functional limitations resulting from a severe mental illness to manage their daily activities and access a range of community, social support, accommodation, health, welfare and employment services.

UnitingCare West will deliver services for 3 sites; Clarkson / Upper North District, Joondalup / Upper North District and Scarborough / Lower North Metropolitan District. The funding contract will run for 2 years and once established the services will support up to 150 people living in the 3 areas.

The Clarkson and Joondalup teams will be based in the new UnitingCare West Merriwa service centre, significantly boosting the range of services available to the local community. Appropriate accommodation will be sourced for the Scarborough team.

“The program is consistent with UnitingCare West’s Strategic direction in the provision of services to a marginalised and poorly serviced population,” said Fran Tilley, Executive Manager Mental Health and Disability Services.

“The program will complement the existing UnitingCare West support services, such as housing and social support services.”

The program will provide employment opportunities for people to support people with mental illness on their journey of recovery and will also provide opportunities for peer support workers for people who have experienced mental illness and are willing to share their story with others.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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