

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 1 June 2010

To: News Editor
From: UnitingCare West, Media Contact – Martin Grasett on 0437 188 393

Removing Barriers

UnitingCare West's annual Winter Appeal launch for 2010 showcased a moving physical theatre performance by Scotch College students.

The piece titled 'Removing Barriers' was a focused performance that explored the complex issue of homelessness.

Acting Chief Executive Officer of UnitingCare West, Mr Mark Loader said "I would like to commend the boys on the journey they have taken in exploring homelessness. They approached the issue with sensitivity and a maturity well beyond their years."

The Winter Appeal launch is a fundraising activity to relieve some of the pressure on UnitingCare West's services over the cold winter months.

The current housing affordability crisis in WA is putting an increased demand on emergency relief services with assistance needed primarily for rental repayments and utility bills.

"We assist on average 330 families and individuals per month who are seeking emergency relief. In the last seven months, we have had to turn away 2,175 individuals and families that equates to 77 people a week," said Mr Loader.

"Last Friday 48 people were turned away for emergency relief, an indication of the demand for this service and there is a two week wait for a financial counselling appointment," he said.

This Winter, UnitingCare West will provide practical assistance and emotional support to ease the burden for many West Australian families and individuals.

If you would like to donate to the Winter Appeal please call 1300 663 298 or visit www.unitingcarewest.org.au

The Winter Appeal was officially launched by Richard Goyder Chairman of Scotch College Council.

UnitingCare West works with Uniting Church schools such as Scotch College to provide students with opportunities to learn about social justice in meaningful and innovative ways.

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information please contact Martin Grasett on 0437 188 393 or martin.grasett@unitingcarewest.org.au