

## MEDIA ALERT

**Date: 9 June 2009**

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

---

## UnitingCare West Launch their Winter Appeal

UnitingCare West's Annual Winter Appeal for 2009 will be launched on 11 June by The Hon. Justice John McKechnie. The launch will show case photography from Year 9 Wesley College students which depicts a Social Justice message.

UnitingCare West is the major community services organisation of the Uniting Church supporting families and children in Western Australia.

Chief Executive Officer of UnitingCare West, Mr Chris Hall said, "We are currently seeing the numbers coming to our services rise three fold with the biggest demand being for assistance with rental payments, 70% of the Emergency Relief delivered in the past three months has been for this."

"We are also turning away a growing number of people week by week as the recession starts to bite deeper and we do not have the resources to assist," said Mr Hall.

"We need to raise at least \$200,000 if we are to continue helping those most in need in our community this winter," said Mr Hall.

The sad fact about the world's economic crisis is that people who were financially comfortable are finding themselves struggling to pay the rent or buy food for their children.

"We are all under pressure in regards to our finances," said Mr. Hall. "However it is more imperative than ever that as a community we continue to keep sharing to assist people in greater need than ourselves."

"The fact is that at UnitingCare West, we are seeing unprecedented numbers of West Australians facing homelessness and disadvantaged," said Mr Hall.

"Thousands of families and individuals are being left behind – many of the victims are children, many are the so-called working poor," he said.

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

By donating to UnitingCare West's Winter Appeal you will help UnitingCare West to provide thousands of emergency food parcels, blankets and other forms of much needed assistance. Donate online at [www.unitingcarewest.org.au](http://www.unitingcarewest.org.au)

### CONTACT DETAILS

For further information please contact Michelle Snowden on 08 9355 9023, or [Michelle.Snowden@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:Michelle.Snowden@unitingcarewest.org.au)