

Positive impacts from Deloitte

On 18th November, Deloitte volunteered 34 staff to assist UnitingCare West for the Deloitte national initiative, Impact Day.

Volunteers participated in a number of activities with 11 being elves for a day packing presents at the Operation Santa workshop, six painted a feature wall in disability housing and 20 participated in a garden makeover for a UnitingCare West domestic violence refuge.

"We're very excited to be a part of this, as we say, 'community is our business'. We are proud to support UnitingCare West in particular, as they provide so many useful services to the community."

Penny O'Halloran, Senior Analyst Deloitte Garden makeover volunteer

John Fitzgerald, Executive Manager of Corporate Services at UnitingCare West said that activities such as Impact Day make a real difference.

"Events such as these make big tasks, like a garden makeover possible. Often we just don't have the manual power to get these physical jobs done.

"Having Deloitte kindly lend staff for a day makes these projects manageable. With the assistance of many hands we can accomplish so much that may not otherwise be achieved." John said.



Being Santa: Deloitte staff at the Operation Santa workshop packed gift and food hampers for Perth families in need.



Getting stuck in: Volunteers give the garden an overhaul at a women's refuge. The makeover included weeding, adding new plants and mulching both the front and back yard.

From the CEO's desk



The past three months has been a very exciting time for UnitingCare West with CHOGM and the Commonwealth Peoples Forum happening in October.

During this time UnitingCare West was involved in a number of activities, notably delivering services to the most vulnerable as well as advocating at a policy level for a range of social justice issues.

Our Tranby Day Centre commenced its 24 hour service delivery in the final week of October. For the duration of this period more than 200 meals were provided each day, and many homeless people who were sleeping rough had the opportunity to rest in a safe space.

There were many positives from this service being made available:

- ↳ People reporting that they rested better than they had for months because they were safe, their material possessions were secure and they could stay as long as they needed to.
- ↳ People were provided with good, nutritious food during the weekend.
- ↳ Mental health concerns and medical issues such as lost medication were dealt with immediately.
- ↳ Many of the people who accessed services also made contributions themselves, such as keeping the outside of Tranby clean and tidy.

A number of concerns were however highlighted, including:

- ↳ The number of underage people who appeared to be living on the streets.
- ↳ The number of Indigenous women on the street, one of the most vulnerable groups of people we work with.

The 24 hour service response would not have been possible without the support of the State Government, the Street to Home team, volunteers from the Riverview Church who assisted with food preparation and contributions of food and personal hygiene products from various businesses.

In other news, I was honoured to be the Chair of the Steering Committee for the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF). In my role I acted as the MC for the launch which was officially opened by the Hon. Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister of Australia, and was attended by 600 people from around the Commonwealth of Nations.



Speaking with Her Majesty the Queen: In the role of Chair of the Steering Committee for the CPF, I was presented to the Queen at the Garden Party hosted by the WA Premier, Colin Barnett at Government House.

During CHOGM UnitingCare West also took a lead role in supporting a group of 15 Noongar leaders to develop and present the inaugural Indigenous People's Workshop. The workshop made a powerful impact on delegates, and Margaret Culbong, Noongar Elder, was the first to present to the Foreign Ministers.

In closing, I am very proud to be part of an organisation that takes the initiative to advocate for people in need and plays a key role communicating this to an international audience as we did during CHOGM. Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Sue Ash **Sue Ash**
Chief Executive Officer

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A symbol of hope in Mental Health Week

On October 9th the Rainbow Project commenced Mental Health Week with its annual worship service, which this year was held at the Floreat Uniting Church.

Reverend Marion Millin led the service with the assistance of representatives from each of the Rainbow Project volunteer groups.

Another achievement during the week for the Rainbow Project was the 10th anniversary of the Wembley Downs Lunch Group on October 11th.

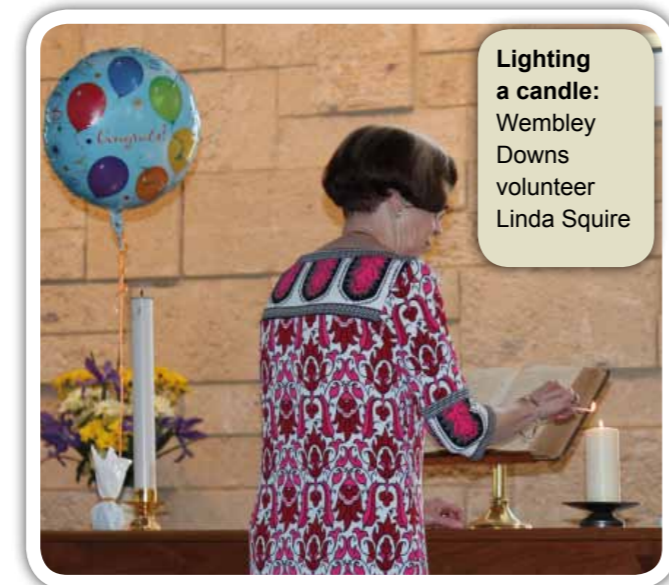
Linda Squire who has been with the project for nine years said that Rainbow allows her to give back to the community.

"Rainbow means acceptance and connection - acceptance of each other as equals as we present

Coming together in one fabric



Thanksgiving Service (L to R): Robert Watson, Mission Development Leader, Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC and Reverend Ron Larkin, Moderator of the Uniting Church.



without any fore-knowledge of our history and connection to friendship and to the community."

"Personally, Rainbow has presented a meaningful involvement for my life at this time." Linda said.

UnitingCare West staff, volunteers and guests attended the Annual Thanksgiving Service and Annual Public Meeting on November 15th.

The event, held at St Stephen's Applecross Uniting Church, recognised staff for their work in the previous year and showcased the past financial year's highlights.

Robert Watson, Mission Development Leader at UnitingCare West, led the Thanksgiving Service and said that the patchwork hanging was a highlight.

"The patchwork was formed from different coloured cloth swatches, brought forward by representatives of the different Directorates, symbolising the privilege of being part of an inclusive organisation that brings the threads of our diversity together into one vibrant fabric." Robert said.

During the meeting, Sue Ash presented her first report as Chief Executive Officer where she acknowledged the work of the past and looked forward to the challenges and rewards of the future.

If you would like a copy of the 2010-2011 annual report it is available online at www.unitingcarewest.org.au or you can request a hard copy by phone on 1300 663 298.

An outstanding effort!

A group of St John Ambulance State Operations Centre staff donated their time on November 5th to assist the young mums in the Trinity Learning Centre with getting back to school.

The group chose to volunteer at the UnitingCare West crèche in Victoria Park as part of a team building day.

State Ambulance Operations Manager Krista Clark said the team decided to do a community-based project to build team spirit whilst assisting others.

"We helped out by refilling the sandpit and as part of our budget for the day, we bought storage units for the mums as well as a bunch of new toys," Krista said. "It was a really great day and everyone enjoyed pitching in."

UnitingCare West Team Leader for Young Parent Services, Cassandra King said she was thrilled with the efforts of the volunteers.

"Generosity like this acknowledges to the young mothers who attend Trinity Learning Centre that they are valued members of our community and supported in their educational endeavours," she said.

The Trinity Learning Centre provides support for 14-19 year old mothers to finish their high school qualifications through distance education options and offers free crèche facilities for students.

Local business All Earth Group donated a skip bin and new sand for the sandpit, while Gearup Promotions helped by organising T-shirts for each team member.



St John Ambulance volunteers: Christine Jessett, Clint Spanhake and Courtney Bryce-Moore. (Photographer: Matthew Poon)



Santa's helpers: Year 1's Kael and William from Wesley College took part in the shopping challenge to support other children who may otherwise go without at Christmas.

Operation Santa launches into 20th year

The launch of Operation Santa was held at Target Morley on November 9th with Wesley College students, their parents and UnitingCare West staff participating in a 20 minute shopping challenge.

The aim of the challenge was to show that it does not cost very much, or take very much time to find gifts that would make a genuine difference to a family's Christmas. From the challenge, 130 gifts were donated to Operation Santa.

UnitingCare West donates the gifts they receive from Target to participants of their numerous community programs around Perth. Last year over 1,300 families across UnitingCare West received support from the appeal.

How can people help? Spot the large red Operation Santa tree at any Target, take a gift tag from the tree and buy a gift for someone in need. Alternatively, gift cards can be purchased from Target and donations can be made at www.unitingcarewest.org.au.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, nationally UnitingCare and Target have collected and distributed more than 1.7 million gifts in the past 20 years, with over 65,000 donated last year. Help us collect 100,000 gifts this Christmas for those in need Australia wide.