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Homeless sweet home

WA housing minister Troy Buswell officially opened a new homeless centre in Perth last Saturday, aimed at providing short term accommodation for men and women.

The Monger Street facility is a joint venture between UnitingCare West by **BEN DINEEN-DICKINSON** and the WA housing department, with

funding for furnishings by Lotterywest.

UnitingCare West CEO Chris Hall told the *Voice* the centre would add eight beds to 21 already provided by the charity across WA.

"Residents will be able to stay for up to nine months while being assisted to make critical changes in their lives," he said.

"The central location means clients will have easy access to necessities for

everyday life, such as supermarkets, banks and public transport."

Shelter WA's Bronwyn Kitching said the centre was "long overdue": "The government still needs to address the severe lack of affordable accommodation," she added.

"It's really a drop in the ocean. We need a commitment to maintain these projects and to build more facilities."