



MEDIA ALERT

To: News Editor
From: Uniting Church in Western Australia
Maggie Johns 0419 831 576

Tuesday, 16 October 2012

Sharing our Common Wealth

Even here, in the 'lucky' country, more than a million Australians are affected by poverty and severe hardship. As part of National Anti-Poverty Week, the Uniting Church in Western Australia will host an ecumenical service at 12noon tomorrow, Wednesday 17 October at the Uniting Church in the City.

Since 2008, the Churches of Perth have gathered together to express our solidarity and commitment to end poverty and exclusion that many of our fellow Australians suffer.

Rosemary Hudson Miller, Uniting Church in Western Australia's Associate General Secretary, Justice and Mission said, "Australia is a rich, young nation. Western Australia has experienced strong economic growth and has achieved affluence in recent years. Yet, as Western Australians, we are challenged to use this prosperity for the benefit of all Western Australians. In particular, those individuals and families who continue to struggle to make ends meet.

"Poverty and hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world, more than a billion people are desperately poor."

Ms Hudson Miller said that whilst these figures can be overwhelming, the actions of one person can make a difference.

"Each one of us can be the change we want to see in the world. You can make a difference by supporting op shops, making a donation, volunteering to work in this area and by advocating for more affordable public housing or an increase in the rate of Newstart Allowances. Together, we can make a difference," said Ms Hudson Miller.

Sue Ash, CEO of UnitingCare West will give the address and will be joined by the Spirit of the Streets Choir, as well as representatives from Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Salvation Army, Catholic Social Justice Council, Anglicare and the Manna Project.

The aim of Anti-Poverty Week is to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia, as well as encourage research, discussion and action to address those problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

For further information, visit www.antipovertyweek.org.au

Event Ecumenical Anti-Poverty Week Service
When 12 noon, Wednesday 17 October 2012
Where Uniting Church in the City Hall, Queens Buildings, Level 1, 97 William Street, Perth

For further media information, please contact Maggie Johns on 0419 831 576.