

UNITINGCARE'S PANCAKE DAY

Statement by Minister for Communities

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for Communities) [5.46 pm]: Last Tuesday, 20 February, was UnitingCare's Pancake Day. This is an annual national event that raises awareness of the impact of poverty on the lives of Australians and raises funds for UnitingCare's work with disadvantaged and vulnerable people. On Pancake Day, thousands of individuals, businesses, schools, churches and community groups cook and sell pancakes to raise funds for UnitingCare's services. National Pancake Day involves more than 2 000 groups across Australia cooking, tossing and topping 200 000-plus pancakes to raise awareness of the impact of poverty in Australia and to raise funds for UnitingCare's work with disadvantaged and vulnerable Australians.

In Perth, UnitingCare Western Australia celebrated Pancake Day at the front of the Wesley Church, on the corner of William and Hay Streets. The catch-cry of Pancake Day - "share it 'round'" - promotes the idea of sharing with those in need in our communities. The message is that there is enough for everyone if we share it "round". UnitingCare's network of agencies and missions across Australia provides practical support and advocacy to more than one million Australians each year. Buying a \$2 pancake supports UnitingCare Western Australia in the important community work it does, and it does a tremendous job. UnitingCare Western Australia runs programs addressing homelessness, poverty, substance abuse issues, disability services, psychiatric illness, ageing, loneliness, brain injury, primary support breakdowns and financial crises. Since it began in 2002, more than half a million people have eaten a pancake at one of UnitingCare's Pancake Day events. In 2006, 3 370 groups participated in UnitingCare's Pancake Day, raising more than \$600 000. About 33 700 volunteers assisted in running Pancake Day events for UnitingCare in communities across Australia in 2006. It is important that members in this place respect and commend UnitingCare and other community organisations for these sorts of initiatives and for the community spirit that they generate in our state to support those in need in our community.