

# Angels rise to re-open Young Hearts

ANGLICAREWA was forced to shut a Mandurah office of its Young Hearts program, reduce staffing in Rockingham and cancel group sessions last year because of a short-fall in funding.

Young Hearts is a counselling service for children who have been victims of or witnessed family domestic violence.

Dalkeith resident Warwick Hemsley has supported the program since its inception in 2009 along with Telethon and Austal in Henderson but the service does not receive State or Federal government funding.

However, AnglicareWA chief executive Ian Carter said the organisation was building a strong busi-

ness case to be eligible for government funding.

"We have a strong focus on measuring the outcomes and building an environment to get funding for programs like this," he said.

"Some kids come in (to the program) at a trauma scale of eight-plus (out of 10) and are leaving at the three or four mark."

The State Government had made some important early steps to address family domestic violence by appointing a Minister for Prevention of Family Domestic Violence and changing legislation.

AnglicareWA has hosted the annual Op Shop Ball for the past nine years to help fund programs like Young Hearts but has launched

## FEATURE FLICK

**WHAT:** Angels Rising

**WHEN:** Friday, November 10

**WHERE:** St George's Cathedral

**TICKETS:** [www.anglicarewa.org.au](http://www.anglicarewa.org.au)

a new concept this year – Angels Rising, a fundraising dinner with entertainment and auctions at St George's Cathedral with only 300 tickets available.

AnglicareWA chairman John Barrington said money raised at the Angels Rising event, along with other funding, would ensure the organisation could re-open its Mandurah service.

"Young Hearts is responding to a

need in the community but also proactively breaks the cycle for future generations," he said.

In 2015-16, the Department for Child Protection and Family Services responded to 34,524 incidents of family and domestic violence, up more than 27 per cent compared to the previous year.

While Mr Hemsley said he would miss choosing a "weird and wacky" outfit for this year's Anglicare WA fundraiser, Angels Rising would be different to anything else on the Perth event calendar and set in an iconic and unique environment.

"It's all about coming together as a community and focusing on children who experience or witness family domestic violence," he said.



Long-time Anglicare supporter Warwick Hemsley and AnglicareWA chair John Barrington at St George's Cathedral in Perth.

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