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Media Release

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Heart shaped new leadership for Linkwest

- Jane Harwood has joined Linkwest as new CEO
- Linkwest is the peak association for Neighbourhood Centres, Family Centres, Learning Centres, Community Centres and Community Resource Centres in Western Australia. Collectively, these are referred to as Neighbourhood and Community Resource Centres.
- Linkwest's primary purpose is to assist Centres be the best that they can be, to enable them to develop vibrant, inclusive and connected communities, and to ensure they remain a part of the local landscape for generations to come.

Linkwest is delighted to welcome Jane Harwood as new CEO.

Chair of the Linkwest Board of Directors, James Jarvis, said that Jane was appointed for her wealth of experience across the community and social services sector and for the values and commitment she demonstrated to the Board.

"Jane showed us how much heart she has for the Neighbourhood and Community Resource Centre sector. The Board felt her passion, and recognised the impact that will have on the leadership of Linkwest and on sector development and advocacy."

Jane Harwood has moved from a senior leadership team role as Stakeholder Engagement Manager at WA Primary Health Alliance, with prior operations manager experience at the WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies. Jane describes herself as a values driven leader who is skilled at creating the space and environment for others to thrive.

As a graduate of the Leadership WA Signature Program and a UWA alumni, Jane has extensive professional connections to support her own development and that of Linkwest and the network of 140+ member Centres.

"I am so humbled by the work of Linkwest members. They are the lifeblood of their communities. I am looking forward to taking on the challenge of representing the needs and interests of member centres and to celebrating the incredible work of this amazing sector. . ."

Jane recognises that she is joining Linkwest at a challenging time for WA communities and the community services sector. Linkwest member Centres are seeing an increase in demand from their communities as a result of the current cost of living pressures. Centres themselves are also feeling the impact of repeated interest rate rises and heightened inflation.

“ . . . Linkwest has a vision of vibrant, inclusive, connected communities. There are so many stories to tell from the Centres that bring this vision to life and I am excited to have the opportunity as CEO to share those stories in the advocacy for sustainable sector funding.”

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About Linkwest

Linkwest is the Western Australian Peak Body for Neighbourhood and Community Resource Centres.

Right across Western Australia, there are dedicated community spaces where people gather, connect, learn and grow. Collectively, we refer to them as [Neighbourhood and Community Resource Centres](#). Most are community managed not-for-profits, and some are council run. While each Centre is unique, reflecting the needs and aspirations of their local community, all are local and welcoming to everyone. People who attend their local Centre tend to be happier, more optimistic, have increased emotional wellbeing, and are more connected. All of which makes for stronger, healthier communities.

Linkwest provides training, advice, networking platforms and sector advocacy to ensure the sustainability of the sector and to support member Centres to develop vibrant, inclusive, and connected communities in Western Australia.