Media statement
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MCGOWAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS PLACE BASED, GRASS-ROOTS ORGANISATIONS BY OVERTURNING PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT’S DECISION TO DIVEST PROPERTY

Linkwest commends the Hon. Simone McGurk and the McGowan Government on their announcement today that the recent State Budget reversed the Liberal National Government decision which would have resulted in 64 community Neighbourhood Centres and Childcare Centres facing a significant financial burden in property costs and uncertain tenure in the future.

This divestment of property would have directly affected 36 Neighbourhood Centres of which 23 are Linkwest members. In the almost 2 years since the decision was announced by the Barnett Government, the affected Centres have been operating under a cloud of uncertainty. The potential move from subsidised to commercial rent threatened the sustainability of these important grass roots, place-based, community-led organisations.

“Countless hours and dollars were diverted in an attempt to negotiate new leasing arrangements, and in some cases, to seek new accommodation.” said Linkwest CEO, Jane Chilcott.

“Linkwest is therefore delighted that today’s announcement by the McGowan Government finally puts this issue to rest, and will enable our Centres to return to what they do best: strengthening and empowering their communities.”

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