PRESS RELEASE

LINKEST ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD

NEDLANDS-based not-for-profit community support organisation – Linkwest – is proud to announce that its 2015 – 16 board was appointed at the AGM held during its flagship Perth conference – Into the Spotlight: Our Role on Community’s Stage.

Linkwest CEO Jane Chilcott said: “Our board continues to grow in caliber and diversity of experience. The majority have strong backgrounds in practical community work, and individuals bring a range of expertise including senior management capability, accounting expertise, and communications skills.”

“Our board also has regional representatives from Nannup and Manjimup.”

Dr Nicky Howe, who is returning for her second term as Linkwest president said: “Linkwest has clearly demonstrated itself to be proactive and responsive to change; while at the same time it has met or exceeded the performance standards required of the organisation.”

“Linkwest recognises the importance of working with centres, and I personally have witnessed the valuable work they do. They are at the heart of local communities and really make a difference to the lives of people that they serve.”

Other board members include: Virginia Aden (Executive Manager Sudbury House); Seemar Riyat (Chartered Accountant); Cheryle Brown (Manager Nannup Community Resource Centre); Maria Cavill (Manager, William Langford Community House); Andre Foulon (Manjimup Family Centre manager); Gaurav Chawler (Director Community Development, Brockman Community House); Cate Rocchi (Principal, Perth Media); Kylie Hansen (Principal, Turnaround Group); and Viti Simmons (Director Bear Fruit).

Linkwest is the peak body for community, neighbourhood and learning centres in Western Australia. It offers targeted and relevant training and support to those working in small community-managed not-for-profit organisations. Linkwest, with a staff of six, offers crucial support to more than 75 members, including 35 regional and remote organisations. More than 70,000 Western Australians currently use these centres. The centres provide a friendly welcoming place where local people can meet to learn, gain new skills, make new friends and feel part of their community. They also provide a safe affordable space for playgroups, community and support groups to gather.

For more information contact:
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BACKGROUND: Linkwest
Nedlands-based Linkwest is a small not-for-profit organisation that is largely funded by the State Government’s Department of Local Government and Communities.

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Former Premier of Western Australia, Professor Carmen Lawrence, is Linkwest’s official patron. She has been a patron for the past five years.

The history behind the organisation goes back to 1978 – for many years it was known as Learning Centre Link, until it was renamed Linkwest in 2011.

It proudly hosts an informative conference for small not-for-profit organisations every alternate year in Perth. *Into the Spotlight: Our Role on Community’s Stage*, held from August 26-28, was the 19th biennial Linkwest conference. For the first time, Linkwest joined forces with ConnectGroups to co-host the conference. The conference was attended by nearly 150 local community leaders from all over Western Australia.

[http://www.linkwest.asn.au/](http://www.linkwest.asn.au/)

Jane Chilcott, Linkwest CEO
Jane Chilcott has been CEO of Linkwest since 2011, and has been instrumental in re-establishing the peak organisation’s focus and commitment to small, locally managed centres and not-for-profits. Jane’s knowledge of the sector and her extensive HR background has helped many centres become better equipped at meeting the needs and aspirations of their local community. Through her significant advocacy initiatives, Jane has bought attention to the issues affecting small not-for-profits and to the essential services that these organisations provide.
**LINKWEST BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2016**

**Dr Nicky Howe, Linkwest President**

Dr Nicky Howe joined the Linkwest board at the end of 2014. She has been the CEO of Southcare Inc since 2010, is a leadership and management coach, and an ontological practitioner. She has more than 25 years senior management experience, working in government and not-for-profit sectors in the areas of employment, education, welfare, health, aged care and community services.

She holds Doctor of Business Administration from The University of Western Australia, a Post Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management from Flinders University and Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Murdoch University. Furthermore Dr Howe has a Graduate Diploma of Ontological Coaching from the Newfield Institute, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is an adjunct professor in the School of Business at The University of Notre Dame.

**Virginia Aden**

Virginia has been in the not–for–profit sector for over 25 years working in the Early Childhood and Community Services Industry. She has held various positions during this time, working her way up to numerous key positions as General Manager Children’s Services Gowrie WA and the Ellenbrook Early Years Project Manager at the City of Swan.

Executive manager for the Sudbury Community House in Mirrabooka, she is passionate about the community house movement and its role in creating vital and inclusive communities. Her Indian heritage gives her a unique understanding of cultural issues.

**Cheryle Brown**

Cheryle has been the manager for the Nannup Community Resource Centre since 1999, after originally joining the team the previous year as a volunteer. She has a strong sense of community and a passion for community development and regional WA. She has been a representative of the Association of WA Community Resource Centres and worked within the Southern Regions Community Leadership Group.

**Maria Cavill**

Maria is the manager of the William Langford Community House (formerly Boogurlarri), having joined the organization in 2008 after 7 years at the Gosnells Community Legal Centre. She also worked at Ruah Community Services.

**Gaurav Chawler**

Gaurav is the Director of Community Development for Brockman Community House, Beechboro having joined the organisation in 2014 after time in management positions with other not for profits such as Grow, Salvation Army and Communicare. He brings to Linkwest his passion for sharing knowledge, health and community.

**Andre Foulon**

Andre has worked in the not-for-profit sector for more than 18 years and has been with the Manjimup Family Centre as manager since 1995. He has sound business management and governance skills including policy development, compliance, community development and capacity building. Andre also has a creative flair and can turn his hand to pursuits such as photography, film editing, event management and production.

**Kylie Hansen**

Kylie has nine years management experience in non-profit, government and corporate sectors; specialising in leadership, organisational development, strategic project planning and deployment, within Australia and internationally.
Cate Rocchi
With a Bachelor of Arts (English Studies), Cate has worked in media for 20 years. She now runs her own business Perth Media, is a freelance reporter for The Countryman newspaper and works for a range of clients providing PR services. These include Singapore-based GasDrill International, AVELING, Southcare Inc, AMG Real Estate, Trackem Pty Ltd, Shire of Manjimup and Priority1 in Melbourne.

She has been on the committee of Farming Champions, which holds the Farmer on Your Plate event in Perth, for five years and is a member of Austrade’s Women in Global Business group.

Seemar Riyat
Seemar Riyat is a Chartered Accountant with a broad range of professional experiences from diverse industries, backgrounds and organisations; ranging from small public accounting practices to mid-tier accounting firms, commercial ASX listed entities and exposure to the not for profit (social and community care services) sector.

Seemar is also a graduate of Leadership WA and the Southcare Inc run Engaging Young Leaders on Community and Aged Care Boards.

Viti Simmons
Viti Simmons is the Founder and Director of Bear Fruit, an independent enterprise based in Subiaco.

Approaching 20 years as a consultant in the Not for Profit, Small Business and Education sectors. Highly qualified business and community interface specialist with local, regional, national and international experience.

She has a BA, Post Graduate Certificate in Business (Management) and Post Graduate Certificate in Social Impact. Is an alumni member of Leadership WA, Cranlana Program and Centre for Social Impact.

Viti published, A tree needs water to bear fruit: Enterprising women creating reservoirs for poverty alleviation and is currently working on her second manuscript.