



DECEMBER 2018
PRESS RELEASE

LINKWEST MICRO GRANTS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACROSS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Linkwest has launched a micro-grants program to enable members to sponsor a Purple Bench to be located outside their Centre.

Purple benches were launched in 2015 in Canada, where they are located in public parks to honour the memory of women murdered by their partner and to provide help numbers for people experiencing Domestic Violence.

Purple Benches are now appearing in public spaces in Western Australia and they provide a highly visible reminder of the issue of Domestic Violence.

Each year, up to 16 Micro-grants of up to \$100 each, will be awarded to Linkwest member centres, to assist with the cost of materials to transform an existing bench, or to subsidise the cost of purchasing a new bench.

“We are offering 16 micro-grants per year in honour of the 16 Days in WA campaign, which Linkwest and its membership has wholeheartedly supported since its inception in 2017.” says Linkwest CEO Jane Chilcott.

The micro-grants program will run for up to 10 years, with the aim of assisting every one of Linkwest’s 150 members to have a purple bench outside their Centre.

“A couple of our members, including Bruce Rock CRC and Nungarin CRC, already have Purple Benches located outside their centre.” Says Jane Chilcott.

“We hope, by the time 16 Days in WA 2019 is launched, there will be an additional 16 purple benches located around the state, letting women know that there is a confidential and safe place to visit with their children.”

Kedy Kristal, Policy Officer from the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA), congratulates Linkwest for its support of the Purple Bench project.

“The Purple Bench project provides permanent reminders that Domestic and Family violence exists in all communities and every West Australian has a responsibility to recognize and respond appropriately to this devastating issue in our community.” says Kedy.

“We would encourage all communities to ensure they have at least one purple bench in a local public place.”

Applications for the Linkwest Purple Bench micro-grants will open in February 2019.

-Ends –

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BACKGROUND: Purple Benches

In Nova Scotia, Canada, Purple Benches are located in public parks to honour the memory of women murdered by their partner and to provide help numbers for people experiencing Domestic Family Violence. They are known as Barb's Benches and were launched in 2015 to mark the 25-year anniversary of the murder of Barb Baillie by her husband.

Purple Benches are now appearing in public spaces in Western Australia, e.g. Fremantle Town Hall, City of Cockburn, Mukinbudin Community Garden. Nungarin CRC has organised a Purple Bench outside their premises and it is being dedicated on 26 November.

Purple benches provide a visible reminder of the issue of FDV. They have a plaque that includes the DV helpline. When placed outside of a centre – such as the one at Nungarin CRC – they let women know that there is a confidential and safe place to visit with their children.

The Women's Council have a purple bench project whereby organisations can sponsor a bench – either by purchasing a new bench, or by painting an existing bench purple.

http://www.womenscouncil.com.au/uploads/6/1/1/9/6119703/purple_bench_project_flyer.pdf



Desma Osgood, Coordinator of the Nungarin CRC, paints the bench to be located outside the centre in the appropriately named colour, Purple Wisdom

BACKGROUND: Linkwest

Nedlands-based Linkwest is a small not-for-profit organisation that is largely funded by the State Government's Department of Communities and the Department for Primary Industry and Regional Development. Linkwest is the peak body for neighbourhood and community resource centres in Western Australia. It offers targeted and relevant training, resources, advocacy and support to those working in small community-managed not-for-profit organisations.

Linkwest, with a staff of seven, offers crucial support to more than 150 member organisations, including over 100 regional and remote Centres. More than 27,000 Western Australians currently use these centres each week. The centres provide a friendly, welcoming place where local people can meet to learn, gain new skills, make friends and feel part of their community. They also provide



a safe, affordable space for playgroups, community and support groups to gather.

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

Linkwest: Social and Website:

www.linkwest.asn.au

www.facebook.com/Linkwest