



# ST. PATRICK'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE

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## Media Release

### **St Pat's remains committed to ending homelessness despite closure of Day Centre at weekends**

It is with regret that St Patrick's Community Support Centre Day Centre is announcing it will no longer operate its Saturday and Sunday meal service, effective from 1 October.

CEO Steve McDermott said the team behind Fremantle's best known homelessness support service had made the "very difficult but inevitable" decision to cease operating on weekends because it had become impossible to financially sustain the service. Mr McDermott emphasised that St Pat's had for many years followed up all funding avenues but realises that there is a limited pool to cover a range of homelessness and support services.

"St Pat's has been subsidising operating costs for a long time to maintain a seven day a week, 365 days of the year service and we have a responsibility to our funders and donors to operate within our budget and to ensure ongoing viability over the longer term".

"Unfortunately we have had to make the difficult decision to close our weekend meal service.

"The reality is, costs have gone up, whether it be in utility bills or the need for increased safety measures – but funding has not increased along with it.

"Clients will still be able to access St Pat's Day Centre services, including meals and showers, on week days when our support staff, partner agencies and complimentary services are available to provide a holistic service approach aimed at assisting people into housing.

Mr Mc Dermott said St Pat's remained absolutely committed to and focused on its long-term objective of ending homelessness through long-term, integrated programs.

"The organisation will continue to use its resources to ensure we deliver exemplary services to the people of Fremantle," he said.

For interviews and photo opportunities:

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