

MEDIA RELEASE

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Former YMCA executive to lead WA service delivery for Life Without Barriers

Life Without Barriers, one of Australia's largest social purpose organisations, has strengthened its commitment to WA with the appointment of its new State Director, a former YMCA executive with a 20-year track record in the community services sector.

Jennie Burns, who was previously responsible for the strategic growth and development of YMCA's services in WA, will lead the next phase of Life Without Barriers' service delivery to vulnerable individuals and communities across the state.

Life Without Barriers currently provides services to individuals and communities in Perth, Kimberley, the Goldfields and the South West.

The organisation offers disability services, out-of-home care including foster care and residential care, mental health support and youth justice diversion as well as programs such as driver training for Aboriginal people based in Broome and Kalgoorlie.

Chief Executive of Life Without Barriers, Claire Robbs welcomed Ms Burns to the role and said the appointment reinforces the organisation's commitment to expanding services to people in need across WA.

"Since establishing in WA in 2007, Life Without Barriers has focussed on building safe and trusting relationships with people and working with them to change their lives for the better," Ms Robbs said.

"In 2017, we provided support services to around 800 individuals across WA, and we've seen more people reaching out for our services since the introduction of the NDIS.

"Jennie is a highly-respected industry leader with a reputation for delivering impactful community services, particularly for children, young people and their families. I'm excited to have someone of her calibre and experience leading our expansion in WA," Ms Robbs said.

Ms Burns said she was delighted to join LWB's Leadership Team and have the opportunity to guide the strategic direction and delivery of essential services to people in her home state.

"Life Without Barriers exists to create better outcomes for vulnerable people in our society," Ms Burns said.

"That's something I'm very passionate about, and I'm looking forward to helping more people access services that would allow them to lead better, more fulfilling lives," she said.

For more information on Life Without Barriers or to access its services visit lwb.org.au or contact the WA Office on 08 9208 3400.

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Jennie Burns is available for media interviews

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About Life Without Barriers: Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia's largest social purpose organisations, working in more than 300 communities across all states and territories. Its major areas of operations include family support and out-of-home care, mental health services, youth justice, disability services, community based aged care, homelessness services, support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and support to refugees and asylum seekers.

In the spirit of Reconciliation, Life Without Barriers acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country, and their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and customs, and to Elders both past and present.