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MEDIA RELEASE

Memorial enhancements unveiled on eve of World AIDS Day

On the eve of World AIDS Day, WAAC (formerly the WA AIDS Council), in partnership with community members and the City of Vincent, is set to unveil new public artwork at the AIDS Memorial in Robertson Park in North Perth, which commemorates those around the world who have died from AIDS.

The ceremony, which will take place on Tuesday, 30 November 2021, will mark the 20th anniversary of the memorial in addition to the unveiling of the new public artwork by commissioned artist Janet Carter. The artwork acknowledges both the past and future, incorporating symbolism and utilising augmented reality technology.

The event will include addresses from individuals who brought the project to fruition, as well as Emma Cole, Mayor of the City of Vincent, and Conrad Liveris, Chair of WAAC.

Lisa Dobrin, CEO of WAAC, says the new public artwork will be incorporated into the memorial's reflection pond, which encompasses an area for contemplation and prayer.

"Our community AIDS memorial is an important place of natural beauty and tranquillity, where people can seek and pause for reflection or quiet contemplation, in addition to providing a landmark location where people who have suffered loss can seek understanding, peace, hope, healing and renewal," she says.

"And so, on this the 20th anniversary of the memorial, WAAC very much appreciates the opportunity to work in partnership with both the City of Vincent and commissioned artist Janet Carter, to further enhance the memorial using augmented reality and the experience people can have while spending time in contemplation."

The anniversary event comes on the eve of World AIDS Day on 1 December, which will see WAAC activating the whole of Perth's Yagan Square. World AIDS Day activities include a community breakfast with an address by The Honourable Kim Beazley, AC Governor of Western Australia, the signing of the Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities by the Hon Roger Cook, MLA, Minister for Health and an AIDS related award-winning movie screening, after which Perth's iconic landmarks will be lit up in red to raise awareness of HIV, commemorate those who have passed away from AIDS, and show support to people living with the virus.

"These key events are organised in collaboration with our funders, community, sector partners and allies and this year being the 40th year anniversary of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, it is even more significant and crucial to break down barriers to HIV prevention, testing, treatment, care and support, and to stamp out HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination wherever we see it," adds Ms Dobrin.



waac.com.au



hello@waac.com.au



(08) 9482 0000



664 Murray Street
West Perth, 6005



The 20th anniversary of the AIDS Memorial event will take place on Tuesday, 30 November from 10.30am - 11am at Robertson Park, cnr Fitzgerald St and Stuart St, Perth.

Based in West Perth, WAAC exists to optimise the sexual health and wellbeing of all West Australians, in addition to improving access to health services and information, and reduce the transmission of HIV, STIs and other blood-borne viruses.

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Media Contact: Ruth Gourley, Shine Communications, Mob: 0434 330 384