



Above  
Natalie and her daughter Nicole look forward to a rewarding future

In November 2003, Natalie enrolled in the agency's "Transition to Work" workshop. The course helps people who want to re-enter the workplace understand what skills they have, what training they may require, they learn resume preparation and interview techniques.

"But the workshops provide much more than this", said Ali West, Coordinator of the workshops.

"The participants discover a whole new sense of self. Their confidence grows as they discover that they do have real skills that employers will and do want. They support and motivate each other, and the transformation is wonderful and remarkable."

In Natalie's case, she was so inspired by the workshop, that she has decided not to find employment but to start her own new small business called "TechnoTan", a mobile spray on tanning service.

"Clients either come to my home, or they have parties for a group of friends in their own homes. I set up my portable spray booth and for just \$25 per treatment, they get an instant, safe, and long lasting tan" said Natalie.

"My business is just 2 months old, but the early signs are good. I want to start promoting my business and developing special offers over the coming months. I am so excited and so committed to making this a real success – for me, and for my children."

Natalie said, "Ali West and CET have proven to be a real gift. The thing that I most appreciate is just how caring, how supportive, and how professional Ali and everyone at CET has been."

"My children are all doing exceptionally well at school, and I tell them to have confidence, believe in yourself, and expand your horizons – everything is possible."

The Transition To Work program is funded by the Department of Education and Workplace Relations.

**Editor's Note:** If you are interested in finding out more about TechnoTan and Natalie's services, please call her on telephone: 9249 8696 or mobile 0403 919 804.



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## LifeLink and United Way WA... "United" in support of children in need



Above  
Tony Pietropiccolo, Director of Centrecare with Nicole Marinho from United Way WA and some of the children enjoying the toys

**Centrecare and the Catholic Migrant Centre, both LifeLink supported agencies, were thrilled to receive a special surprise Christmas present, thanks to United Way WA and three of their very generous "corporate partners" - Wyllie Group, Alcoa and Chamber of Commerce & Industry.**

In December 2003, Nicole Marinho, Coordinator of United Way's Community Care Programs, contacted LifeLink with an offer of toys for distribution to children in need.

United Way WA is a not-for-profit organisation that works with the corporate sector, to provide practical support for the community, through the provision of funding and other assistance to organisations such as LifeLink and many others.

Nicole said: "Centrecare and the Catholic Migrant Centre provide support to so many people, so it was a pleasure to be able to make this offer to LifeLink."

A Christmas Toy Appeal was one way in which the business community of WA could assist these agencies and give something to the people who depend on their services at what can be a hard time of year for many families.

I was overwhelmed by the number of presents that were donated and I am confident next year's appeal will be even more successful."

Centrecare, one of WA's largest, professional agencies, provides practical assistance and support to families, women escaping domestic violence, children at risk, homeless families and many others in need.

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The Catholic Migrant Centre supports and assists new migrants and refugees through an extensive range of programs and services – language, employment, interpreting, skills training, emergency relief, accommodation and advocacy to name but a few.

Together, these two agencies providing caring support to over 28,000 West Australian families and individuals, at a cost exceeding \$7.7M annually.

Mr Tony Pietropiccolo, Director of Centrecare (and current President of WACOSS) said:

*"We were delighted and thankful to receive this offer of support through United Way WA."*

*Centrecare provides emergency and short-term accommodation for children who have had to be removed from their own homes due to domestic violence, abuse or neglect. We also have a number of Homeswest homes that we manage for single parents escaping domestic violence situations.*

*To have so many new toys available to distribute among our many services was great, but the best thing, was seeing the smiles on the children's faces"*



LifeLink would like to sincerely thank United Way WA, and especially to acknowledge and congratulate Wyllie Group, Alcoa and Chamber of Commerce & Industry for their corporate citizenship and generosity.

It is pleasing to see two not-for-profit organisations like LifeLink and United Way WA working together to help support the community.

Together, we **can** make a difference!

## Will Seminars Continue in 2004

Due to the overwhelming interest shown by parishes and parishioners in 2003, Archbishop Hickey has confirmed that the "Free Will Information Evenings" will continue throughout the new year.

Established by His Grace as a service to the Archdiocese, the one hour seminars are designed to offer information on what is involved in making a Will, why it is important, and provide useful tools for preparing a Will, such as our Free Will Kit.

Most importantly, two experienced solicitors are on hand to answer any questions you might have. Parishioners who completed our "service questionnaire" said the seminars are very informative and worthwhile. They particularly liked the group, and then one-on-one, consultation time with the solicitors – and all at no cost!

The last seminar was held for the Northern Zone of Parishes - thanks once again to Father Gatt and the St Kieran's Parish for hosting the event. We received over 120 requests from people wanting to attend.

We therefore had to split the Zone into 2 groups so as to accommodate everybody.

We are pleased to announce that the second Will Seminar for the Northern Parishes has now been arranged, and the details are as follows:

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Date:  | Wednesday 10 March 2004   |
| Time:  | Commencing 7.30pm   |
| Venue: | Woodvale Parish Centre<br>Cnr Parkside Ramble & Duffy Terrace<br>Woodvale |

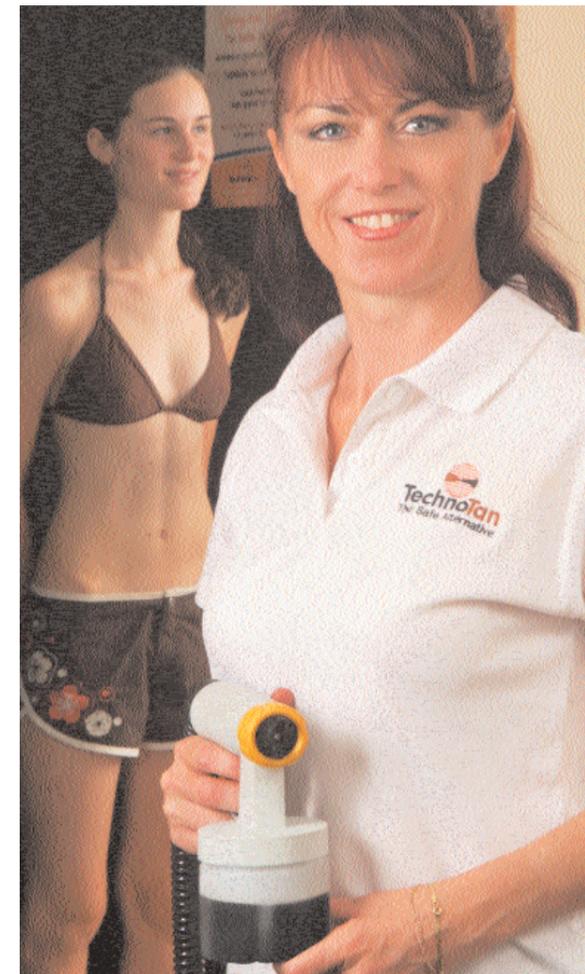
This is not a fundraising event - LifeLink simply views this as our way of "giving something back" to the parishes and parishioners that so generously support us throughout the year.

If you'd like to join us, please contact Kim Sweetman on telephone 9223 1315 or email your reservation to: [admin@lifelink.com.au](mailto:admin@lifelink.com.au)... places are limited!

**Editor's Note:** Refreshments will be served on conclusion of the presentations.

# EXPANDING LIVES

## CENTACARE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING



Natalie La Bianca is a great example of just how LifeLink agencies do indeed make a difference in peoples lives - by reaching out and truly caring.

Natalie has raised three fantastic children – Nicole (15) Mario (12) and April (10) – all on her own since her divorce 9 years ago. A full time mum, it had been many years since she worked in retail sales. But Natalie felt it was important at this time in her life, and that of her children, to re-enter the workforce.

*Natalie said "I want to show a good example for my kids. I tell them that you need to work hard to get all that life has to offer, and not just financial rewards, but the sense of accomplishment and confidence that comes from effort."*

*I also want to work for myself. I want to expand myself. Challenge myself. Grow as an individual"*

Not exactly sure what to do, Natalie was directed by Centrelink to a LifeLink supported agency, Centacare, Employment & Training (CET). CET has provided training and employment opportunities for thousands of West Australians for over 30 years.

## It's your funeral!

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