

E-NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE

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BE ALCOHOL AWARE

Investing In Our Youth continue to target youth alcohol consumption in 2011. The following statistics taken from issue paper 6 released by the WA Commissioner for Children and Young People in February of this year continue to cause concern.

46,957 (approximately 28%) of Western Australian 12 to 17 year-old students consumed alcohol in the past week.

24.3% of Western Australian 12 to 17 year-old school students who drank in the last week report drinking at levels considered to place adults 'at risk' of harm.

Rates of alcohol-related harm have increased significantly over recent years, particularly in those aged 16 to 24 years.

APRIL

2011

Approximately five young Australians aged 15 to 24 years die every week due to alcohol attributable injury or disease. Another 200 are hospitalised.

Investing In Our Youth currently administer the Be Alcohol Aware fund, supporting the development of alcohol education activities. South West government and non government organisations who work with young people are encouraged to apply. The following alcohol awareness activities have recently been supported through Be Alcohol Aware funds.



Supported by
Government of Western Australia
Department for Communities

BUILDING STRONG, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

The Shire of Manjimup will host an alcohol free Hip Hop event. Youth from schools, youth groups and the community will be encouraged to help design an Alcohol Aware Hip Hop flyer and distribute them to schools, friends, family and the public. Young people will be involved in setting up a display of alcohol facts and posters at the alcohol free event.

True Colours will work with young people to develop an alcohol awareness message that can be printed on a resource selected by young people and distributed at the 'Dining for Diversity' event along with a 'show bag' of information.

The South West Women's Health and Information Centre will receive assistance to schedule further TV adverts developed in consultation with young people, that encourage the safest option of no alcohol consumption during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

An alcohol free community quiz night is planned by the Lot 208 Youth Advisory Committee. Young people will be involved in setting up a display of

alcohol facts and posters and will design questions relating to facts on alcohol.

The South West Community Drug Service Team is planning a camp for Noongar young people that will involve alcohol awareness activities including beer goggles, mocktail mania, designing a poster, standard drinks, and a showing of the DVD 'The Gathering.'

Mission Australia will complete drumbeat training, which combines music therapy with education, and provide drumming sessions with the purpose of raising alcohol awareness.

DVD – 'The Gathering'

Investing In Our Youth have purchased 'The Gathering' DVD for loan to schools and youth groups.

'The Gathering' DVD resource has been created to use with young people (aged 15-18) in schools and youth settings, to act as a catalyst to talk to young people about the current teen drinking culture.



The resource has been developed to fill a gap in the availability of alcohol education material which reflects the

social situations currently experienced by young people and the contemporary teenage drinking culture.

The City of Melville's 27 minute professionally produced drama can be used as a tool to support discussion with young people and raise awareness of the acute harms associated with binge drinking including alcohol poisoning, violence and unwanted sex. It can also be used to facilitate discussion with the community to discourage the secondary supply of alcohol to juveniles. It is recommended that viewing of the DVD is followed by discussion, explanations and activities with young people – suggestions are provided in an accompanying teacher resource.

VISIT FROM PROF JOHN TOUMBOUROU

Investing In Our Youth met with Professor John Toumbourou when he recently visited WA. Professor Toumbourou is the voluntary Chief Executive Officer of Communities That Care Ltd., (www.rch.org.au/ctc) a not-for-profit company formed in collaboration between the Royal Children's Hospital and the Rotary Club of Melbourne. The company works nationally to increase community capacity for effective health promotion and prevention and encourages community mobilisation, substance abuse prevention, mental health promotion and crime prevention.

Prof Toumbourou has initiated talks with Investing In Our Youth regarding participation in a project that aims to prevent community alcohol problems by assisting young people and their families to adopt national alcohol guidelines that discourage adolescent alcohol use. The project has been funded as an Australian Research Council Linkage Project.

Prof Toumbourou is renewing an association with Investing In Our Youth that goes back to the early days of the organisation when Communities That Care and Investing In Our Youth undertook a large scale school survey.

Investing In Our Youth share the philosophy of the Community That Cares model - promoting the healthy development of children and young people, working collaboratively across services, focusing on early intervention and prevention, and encouraging community engagement.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE – Jane Manning



Tell us about your background?

I am a local person born in the South West. I spent 11 years in Perth undertaking my education and commencing my career in the community sector. I

I spent 5 years working in the field of domestic violence, which was very difficult but rewarding. On returning to Bunbury in 1986 I was involved in establishing the South West Women's Refuge and Waratah Support Centre. Since that time I have worked for the South West Development Commission in a range of economic and social development projects in the region.

Why do you support Investing In Our Youth?

IIOY is made up of a group of dedicated people and I feel honored and privileged to be involved. This organisation works in partnership with a range of stakeholders to research and develop responses to issues that affect children and youth in the region. It is recognised in the community for its advocacy role as well as an organisation that draws attention to the needs of young people.

What would you like IIOY to achieve in the future?

I would like to see the continuation of the vital role that IIOY plays in identifying concerns regarding children and youth in our community.

IIOY is the lynch pin that joins many of the local agencies together to respond on these issues and this role needs to continue.

I would also like to see IIOY gain recurrent funding for its executive officer (who has done an outstanding job) thus increasing the sustainability of the organisation and its capacity to bring about change.

What are some of your other interests?

In addition to work I have many and varied interests. Spending time with my family, (especially my four grandchildren) and friends gives me great pleasure. I love cooking and entertaining, playing hockey, bush walking and going to the beach. My community interests include being a board member of Milligan Community Resource Centre and Waratah and as member of Arts Margaret River.

2011 NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK



Look out for NAIDOC week activities which will be held in 2011 from July 3-10. NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) celebrates the culture, history and achievements of Indigenous people. Each year the national organising committee chooses a theme for NAIDOC. This year the theme is about taking responsibility for the future – **'change: the next step is ours.'**

If you are interested in nominating an inspiring local Aboriginal person for a NAIDOC award, contact Elizabeth Hill for details on T 9791 7166.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Healthway have agreed to partner with Investing In Our Youth and the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation to support a forum on alcohol and young people planned for later in the year. The forum will feature influential guest speakers who will present recent findings and discuss possible strategies to address youth alcohol consumption.

CLD ACCOUNTING

Many thanks go to Paul Spinelli at CLD Accounting for providing free consultation vouchers to young people from the Mission Australia 'Navig8' program. This makes it possible for young people who are wards of the state to access professional and specialist accounting and financial services - services that would have been formally beyond their reach. With assistance through CLD Accounting they will now be able to link to a team of specialists providing advice on a range of finance and business issues, helping them to make a great start to their adult life.

Westpac Recognise the Work of Volunteer Treasurers

Westpac's Community Treasurer's Awards have been created to recognise the hard work and leadership displayed by honorary treasurers.

"Our Westpac Community Treasurer's Awards are a fitting way to show our appreciation for the immense contribution made by volunteer groups in the South West," Social Sector Banking Relationship Manager Manager Paul Keenan said.

Awards will be given nationally in three categories, with winning treasurers in each class being given \$5000 for their organisation and \$5000 worth of tools and training.

Nominations for the Westpac Community Treasurer's Awards can be

submitted online, by post or by fax. Entries must be received by 5pm, on Friday April 29. More information is available at

www.ourcommunity.com.au/treasurersawards

SUPPORT FOR IIOY

Investing In Our Youth receive support from sponsors through a corporate membership system. Please contact us if you would like to find out more about membership options.



SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre

A regional Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre has recently been established in Bunbury. The role of the Centre is to 'achieve sustainable employment outcomes for Aboriginal people in a culturally sensitive way'. The key aims of the Centre are to support employers to attract, recruit and retain Aboriginal employees and to support Aboriginal people to obtain meaningful and long-lasting employment.

The Centre undertakes to link services, and broker solutions that lead to employment.

For more information contact Marcus Tuner on T: 9791 1966 M: 0457 566 977 E:Marcus.Turner@dtwd.wa.gov.au.

Mental Health Commissioner visits Bunbury

Mental Health Commissioner Eddy Bartnik recently responded to an invitation from South West Mental Health Service Regional Manager John Brearley to visit Bunbury. Key South West stakeholders were invited to hear about the directions the Mental Health Commission is taking in supporting

regions to develop youth orientated mental health models of care and were given the opportunity to comment on possible next step service initiatives to meet the needs of young people in the South West Region.

The meeting went well and has opened up opportunities for ongoing discussion. The Commissioner was pleased with the level of interest and commitment to collaboration that he witnessed at the meeting and indicated his support for initiatives that involved consumers, not for profit organisations, and government agencies working together to help progress priority issues in the South West.

The WA Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) Receives Major Funding Boost

WAAMH, the peak mental health representative body in Western Australia for non-government not-for-profit agencies has received \$1.695 million over the next two years to distribute to not-for-profit agencies to develop workforce training for staff to better respond to the needs of people with a mental illness and their families.

Schools of the Future

In response to statements from Premier Barnett regarding his intention to invest State budget funds to transform schools into 'one stop parenting shops', Investing In Our Youth is inviting health and education delegates to attend a 'think tank' workshop. Board member Alan Kidd said the 'think tank' would provide an opportunity for health and education representatives to work together to define models of service delivery.

PCYC Quiz Night

Trev Dolan and the team at the Bunbury PCYC have got a great night in store for you in this fundraiser to support youth activities.

Details: Friday May 6, Bunbury PCYC (Parade Rd). Food and drink available (no BYO drinks). \$80 per table - max 8 people per table.

Bookings essential - 9795 8690 or bunburypcyc@wapcyc.com.au