

E-NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK 2012

National Youth Week is the big news item this month for young people in the SW. The WA launch of National Youth Week (NYW) took place on Saturday April 14 at Bicentennial Square in Bunbury.

The event was planned by local young people to provide opportunities to express their ideas and views, raise important issues, enjoy some entertaining performances, rides and stalls, and take part in demonstrations and workshops.

The event was extremely well organised and a credit to the young people involved.

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13-22
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2012
CREATE.
INSPIRE.
NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

APRIL

2012

Photo 1: Event Coordinator Amanda Taylor (centre) on stage with MCs Joshua Cunniffe (R) and Alison Farley



Photo 2: Mission Australia provided T-shirts for young people to personalise with their own painted slogan



Photo 3: Colourful youth art project coordinated by Eaton Breakaway Youth Centre



Photo 4: Kwobidak Yorgas paraded their own designs with flair!



YOUTH ISSUES POLL

Supported by a small National Youth Week grant from the Department for Communities, Investing In Our Youth undertook a poll of local young people who attended the launch of National Youth Week.

Young people were asked to identify three main issues of concern from a prompt list of 18 choices.

They were also asked if they knew of any services in the SW that could assist with these concerns and if they could suggest any services or supports that they would like to see in the SW in the future.

Results from the young people polled showed that their priority concerns were:

- 1) **Body image**
- 2) **Bullying/emotional abuse**
- 3) **School or study problems**

Almost half of the young people polled could not name any services that could assist with their concerns indicating that more needs to be done to promote services for young people. Most frequently identified services were Kids Helpline and school counselors.

Young people stated that they would like to see more youth events, greater access to counseling, greater awareness of bullying and self-esteem issues, and more employment assistance (work experience programs and internships that help to gain entry to jobs).

A major factor in encouraging young people to complete the survey was an incentive gift voucher generously donated by Bunbury Retravision.



EARLY YEARS SEMINAR

Investing In Our Youth will host a seminar in Bunbury on June 11 titled 'Schools of the Future - exploring future alliances between schools, community, and health'. The seminar will showcase innovative examples of collaborative practice in the early years.

The seminar is particularly relevant in light of recent announcements by the State Government that it will invest \$28.8 million in the next four years to provide integrated school based services for families with young children.

The seminar will be of particular interest to educators and community and allied health workers.

For program and registration information, email or phone Carmen on iioy@iinet.net.au or phone 9721 6951. A seminar flyer is available on our web site.

The seminar is supported by the Australian Children's Trust for Healthy People and the South West Development Commission.



BE ALCOHOL AWARE STAGE 2

Earlier this year, Investing In Our Youth successfully completed the Be Alcohol Aware project funded through the Department for Communities. The project engaged with a broad range of organisations who in turn made a very commendable effort to support young people to run youth led alcohol awareness activities. The final project report is accessible on the IIOY web site at <http://www.investinginouryouth.com.au/Young%20People%20and%20Alcohol>

On Friday IIOY was represented at the WA Alcohol and Youth Action Coalition meeting hosted by the Commissioner for Children and Young people Michelle Scott. The information presented at the meeting confirmed that the Be Alcohol Aware project was aligned with current thinking on the importance of working in

partnership with young people to reduce harmful alcohol use..

While the Be Alcohol Aware project was a very useful demonstration project, we know that only sustained prevention efforts can be expected to provide solid evidence and effect change.

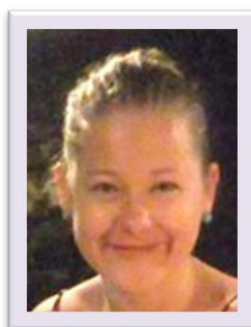
Investing In Our Youth are currently lobbying strongly for a second term Be Alcohol Aware project and will keep you informed of any developments..



Our local PCYC at Withers faces a challenging period of transition.

Previously the WA Police were an integral partner to the PCYC Federation, a not for profit organisation that has been involved in PCYC for more than 70 years. A recent decision has been taken to withdraw police staff from management and administration activities at PCYC Centres. During the next 12 months the PCYC Federation will implement a number of changes including employing new centre managers and centralising management and financial systems.

However this does not necessarily mean an end to a police presence. The Federation hopes to encourage Police officers to utilise PCYC venues and to continue to work in partnership with the PCYC in shared projects for young people in a way that will benefit the community as a whole.



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Investing In Our Youth could not operate without the support of committed Board members such as Regional Youth Development Officer Amanda Taylor.

Tell us about your background...

I'm a South West born and bred girl who relocated to Perth for university and collected some post graduate degrees in Criminal Behaviour along the way. Following my time at university I relocated to Canberra on a graduate program where I worked for the Department of Health and Ageing in the Drug Strategy Branch.

We did some fantastic projects in our Branch. Two of which were working with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime and launching project STOP which I worked on from the research to implementation stage (I'm sure you have all encountered this project while at the pharmacy at some point). Following Canberra I relocated back to the South West and worked with the Department of Corrective Services under Youth Justice for 3 years. I then moved to the role I'm in now, Youth Development and Policy Officer at the Department for Communities and have been here for just over 1 year.

Why do you support IIOY?

IIOY aims to support all young people to reach their full potential. The notion of promote is so important for me and one of the main reasons **why** I support IIOY and all the wonderful projects and programs they run independently, and also in a supportive capacity. Youth are often negatively portrayed in the media, so it's important that IIOY continues to provide support for both young people and youth service providers that offer encouragement to the fantastic youth we have within the region.

What would you like IIOY to achieve in the future?

My hopes for IIOY are to achieve prosperity in outcomes and longevity! I would like all of us in the community to think about joining forces with IIOY to support its success, now and into the future.

What are some of your other interests?

I enjoy going to the gym and keeping fit, cooking beautiful food for my family & friends and attending all the fantastic events that come to the South West region. My husband and I love to travel, fish, and camp, explore and spend time with our beautiful friends and family.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Investing In Our Youth is very reliant on the generosity of community champions and greatly appreciates the ongoing support provided by corporate members the South West Development Commission and Cristal Global.



In this quarter we would also like to send a very big thank you to SOS Office Equipment.

When we realised recently that our printer was beyond resuscitation we contacted a number of businesses to enquire about replacement costs.

SOS Office Equipment, (Bunbury branch on Picton Road) made the very generous commitment to supply and install a top of the range printer free of charge! SOS also offered ongoing assistance with printing and toner supplies! This was a completely unexpected but very welcome gesture as replacing the printer would have put a strain on our limited resources.

Photo: Neil Clark from SOS Office Equipment installing our new printer



Further welcome assistance from the business sector has been provided by the team at Jack in the Box (Busselton).

Jack in the Box has offered to assist with advice on an IIOY Facebook page, seminar flyer and website.

We are very lucky to be able to access the specialist skills of these professionals to provide services that are otherwise beyond our reach.



DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

GIRLS IN I.T. PROJECT

A new group known as South West Women in Computing has formed to inform and encourage girls and young women to consider careers in Information Communication Technology.

An early initiative of the group will be to organize workshops for girls that aim to help raise the profile of Information Communication Technology and career pathways. For more information contact Alison McKenzie at docahrt.65@bigpond.com or Viv Campbell at v.campbell@ecu.edu.au.

Investing In Our Youth is very pleased to assist this initiative by providing an auspice roll to support this new opportunity for young people.

LEEUWIN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Australian Children's Trust (ACT) is working with the Leeuwin Foundation to assist disengaged or at risk youth who live outside of the metropolitan area.

The ACT is making \$1,000 available for young people to participate in the Leeuwin Youth Explorer Voyagers program. This leaves the individual with the task of raising the remaining \$800 fee.

In cases of extreme hardship further funding may be granted by the ACT to help cover the remaining voyage fare, transport, accommodation and/or equipment costs; these requests will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

The program for 2012 includes 14 voyages, each of 7 days and 6 nights in length, to a number of destinations along the WA coastline.

If you know of a young rural or regional person aged between 14 and 25 who may benefit from experiencing a unique, challenging and inspirational ocean adventure please link to the Leeuwin website www.sailleeuwin.com or contact the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation on 9430 4105.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

The State Training Board has established a committee to investigate youth unemployment in Western Australia.

The committee will undertake research to analyse youth unemployment factors including employability skills, education and training attainment, work readiness, rewarding and secure employment, career and transition support and income support.

Interested stakeholders are invited to share their views and feedback on any issue relating to youth unemployment and are encouraged to provide examples of good practice programs or models.

For more information contact IIOY or link directly to the Office of the State Training Board on ostb@dtwd.wa.gov.au.

REVITALISED HEALTH NETWORK

The Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice is going through some changes – changes to the Constitution, change of membership, change of Board composition, and change of name to **Koombana Health Network**.

The organisation has been in operation for approximately 16 years and during that time has supported the General Practice team, rolled out a number of health programs and developed many partnerships with hospitals, allied health and local agencies.

According to CEO June Foulds the rationale behind this change is simple. "With the Government's Health Reform Agenda and the introduction of Medicare Locals we need to look at our past activities and work out what would stand us in good stead for the future" said June.

"As we progress, GPs will always be a core audience for us, but we are excited to be now working across a wider sector. We will be working closely with our Medicare Local in the southwest to obtain funding to continue our work, hopefully to continue our current program activity – Mental Health, Diabetes, Asthma Education, Aged Care, Indigenous Health and the new area of interest – e-health."

Investing In Our Youth hopes to positively contribute to early intervention and prevention planning through representation on the SW Medicare Local Population Health Committee.

The aim of the federally funded Medicare Local initiative is to coordinate primary health care delivery and tackle local health care needs and service gaps. They intend to drive improvements in primary health care and ensure that services are better tailored to meet the needs of local communities.