

PROMOTING THE  
HEALTHY  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE IN THE  
SOUTH WEST

# Envoy



## Investing In Our Youth Newsletter

July 2015

### Welcome

Investing In Our Youth is a community based not for profit organisation based in the South West of Western Australia.

Our vision is to create a healthy and safe community environment where all young people are valued and supported to reach their full potential.

Investing In Our Youth achieves its vision by working with other community service organisations, business, government and the wider community to generate ideas and facilitate projects, services and community plans that will foster the development of children and young people in the South West region.

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### 2017

2017 will be a very positive year for Investing In Our Youth. We look forward to promoting the healthy development of children and young people in the South West, aided by established and new business and community partners.

With the creative drive of our staff and Board, there are always new opportunities to pursue and evidence based directions to follow. This year will be no different. There is no shortage of exciting projects on the horizon.



### The Incredible Years

The Incredible Years is coming to the South West! The program for parents who want to have a better relationship with their child will be facilitated for the first time in Western Australia through the Child and Parent Centres in Carey Park and Collie.

Although new to WA, the program has been extensively research and evaluated internationally and has been found to be effective in providing parent support that leads to the development of socially, emotionally and academically competent children.

Coordinator of the Collie Valley Child and Parent Centre, Carole English, has taken many opportunities to discuss 'The Incredible Years' program locally and says that all indications are that parents will be very receptive to attending the program.

Evaluations have shown that The Incredible Years program can increase parent confidence, reduce parental reports of problem behaviour and improve parental mental health and well being.

To learn more about this program contact Carole English in Collie on 9734 3364 or Pam Macnish or Deb Woods at Carey Park on 9721 6991.



Our support platform for child care services in the South West - The Pod - is attracting a lot of positive energy and interest...

After a successful launch last year, The Pod team are busy assisting child care services who want to continuously improve their standards.

What is very exciting about this project, is that in coming years The Pod plans to transition to a social enterprise business based model so that the team can provide ongoing permanent benefit to child care services in the long term.



Pictured: Acting Investing In Our Youth Executive Officer June Foulds with Pod team members Louise Fischer, Claire MacDonald and Bernie Evans at one of three launch events for the Pod across the South West.

It seems that The Pod is reaching its target market...

“Being the only centre in our small rural town it is really wonderful to know there is help available and that that help came to us as we do not have enough staff to always travel for any type of training or professional development. I firmly believe that the help we have received to this date was crucial in us receiving our...rating.”

**- A Small Rural Not-For-Profit Service in the South West of WA**

“When we were facing a number of issues that needed to be addressed within our centre, it was very difficult to focus on one problem, and sort it out, as it felt as if we were constantly dealing with problems and issues and were struggling to resolve them. The Health check, Action Plan...laid everything out in one concise document and gave us guidance on where to focus our energy (on the priorities) and gave us a timeline so that we could achieve all the things we needed to.”

**- A Regional For-Profit Service in the South West of WA**

“...this was extremely valuable to myself as the chairperson, and to the director working in the centre. I know the director benefited greatly from the support and face to face interaction as I was often not able to spend a lot of face to face time with the director due to my work commitments. It was also helpful for me to know that she was getting that support so I was able to focus on other things and not also worry as much about how she was going.

Overall, I felt we all worked very well together and I was kept very informed of what work was being done, and appropriate approvals etc. were sought.”

**- Owner of a For-Profit Service in the South West of WA**

For more information on what the Pod can offer child care services, call the Pod team on

0458 377 164 and visit [www.thepod.org.au/](http://www.thepod.org.au/)



Department of **Local Government and Communities**  
Department of **Regional Development**

If you would like to join forces with Investing In Our Youth on any of our programs by volunteering, or providing sponsorship support, please contact Carmen Gregg, CEO on 0408 254 833, or [Carmen.Gregg@investinginouryouth.com.au](mailto:Carmen.Gregg@investinginouryouth.com.au).

## HIPPY

2017 will see the HIPPY program go from strength to strength following a successful start-up period in Bunbury and Collie in 2016.

The HIPPY program has many facets. The main objective is to empower parents of 4 and 5 year olds to be their child's first teacher through a model of service delivery that includes home visiting and parent gatherings.

However, dig a little deeper and you find that the HIPPY program is also about empowering HIPPY staff, facilitating professional development opportunities, and supporting families to participate in enrichment experiences.

Meeting all the objectives of the HIPPY program will make for many creative experiences in the year ahead.

For more information on the HIPPY program contact Naomi Henderer on 0409 900 406.

## Picture this...

Representatives of the Department of Education communications team recently visited both the Collie and Carey Park Child and Parent Centres to provide footage of activities and interviews at the Centre. The Collie Valley short video is available on the following link

<http://investinginouryouth.com.au/families/child-parent-centre-collie-valley/>

The video is great resource for people who would like a quick introduction to the Child and Parent Centre model. We will let you know when we have the Carey Park video to hand.

## New Partnership

Congratulations to the **Shire of Capel**. The shire successfully applied for funds through the Department of Local Government and Communities to work with the Child and Parent Centre Carey Park to add to early years activities and parent workshops planned for Dalyellup in 2017. One of the fastest growing suburbs in WA, Dalyellup has a young population (10% aged 0-4 years – ABS 2011), and it will be a challenge to deliver services to match the pace of projected population growth. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Capel Shire to help meet the needs of young families in Dalyellup.

For more information contact Pam Macnish or Deborah Woods on 9721 6991 or Donna Sims on 9727 0222.

