

AWARDS FOR LOCAL PROGRAM

The LEAF program is a school based program that targets families with children aged 0-4 years. The program was developed by Kindergarten teacher, Fiona Farren at South Bunbury Primary School.

One of the strengths of the LEAF program is that it is supported by a range of organizations, including Investing In Our Youth Inc, that are committed to working together to achieve better outcomes for families with young children.

According to program coordinator Fiona Farren, "raising children is the most important job there is and we want to make sure that children have the best possible start to their education. We all need a network of support. Babies arrive with no manual or dials!"

The LEAF program has been recently recognized with three awards.

Fiona Farren is a state recipient of the National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA).

The LEAF program has been recognized in two categories of the Children's Week 2009 Awards of Recognition. Investing In Our Youth and the Department of Education won an award in the category of 'Department for Communities

Outstanding Children and Family Service or Project (Regional Award)'. Fiona Farren was the winner in the category 'Children's Week Award of Recognition (Adult)'.

Congratulatory messages have been received from Prof Fiona Stanley and Prof Steve Zubrick of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research; The Minister for Communities, the Hon Robyn McSweeney; the Minister for Education, the Hon Elizabeth Constable; the Minister for Local Government, the Hon John Castrilli; the Hon Adele Farina MLC; and Mr Murray Cowper, MLA.

There is promising evidence that programs such as LEAF assist pre-primary children prepare for school, while allowing caregivers and parents to identify any concerns well before a child enters the school system.



This Issue:

Accolades for the Linking Education and Families Program (LEAF)

Support from Bunbury's Biggest Charity Event of the Year – the Chef's Long Table Luncheon

Investing In Our Youth looks to the future with a marketing plan

Manjimup directory for families with young children

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(Photos courtesy Tammy Wilson and Mike Farren)

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SUPPORT FROM THE CHEF'S LONG TABLE LUNCHEON

Investing In Our Youth are very honored to learn that in 2010 the organization will share in proceeds of Bunbury's greatest charity event, the Chef's Long Table Luncheon.

Investing In Our Youth Inc plan to make good use of the organization's funding allocation to roll out service directories for families with young children in two new SW communities. There are also plans to further support and advocate for the Linking Education and Families (LEAF) project.

Plans include developing further funding applications, setting up a LEAF web site in partnership with the Bunbury District Education Office, and continuing advocacy on behalf of the LEAF program.

The Chef's Long Table Luncheon is an alfresco gourmet food and wine experience that takes place on the Pat Usher Foreshore on Sunday the 21st of February.

Be part of this wonderful event by purchasing tickets from JOLT Foot Ware in Victoria St, Bunbury or online at www.chefslongtable.com.au.



MARKETING PLAN

To ensure the future sustainability of Investing In Our Youth, the organisation has identified the need to develop a marketing plan. Fortunately this idea has received some support from the 2009 round of the Royalties for Regions South West Regional Grants Scheme.

The objective of developing a marketing plan is to build capacity to partner with the business/corporate sector and local government and develop sponsorship/membership opportunities.

Investing In Our Youth Inc has operated independently for some years, drawing on small-scale research and evaluation consultancies for the child and youth service sector and through the receipt of a percentage of project management fees for funded projects brokered by the organisation in partnership with other agencies.

Chair of the organisation, Professor Rhonda Oliver said it was now time to look to the future, to build the sustainability of the organisation, and to expand the organisation's important role of promoting the healthy development of children and young people.

"A secure future will enable IIOY to continue to go about the business of building partnerships for prevention and leveraging state and commonwealth funds to support local programs and activities for children and young people" Professor Oliver said.

The South West community are aware of the benefits of investing in early intervention and prevention. Investing In Our Youth would like to acknowledge the support of Mission Australia, who host Investing In Our

Youth, by providing the organisation with rent free accommodation.

Investing In Our Youth is also very encouraged by the support of the South West Development Commission who has committed to sponsorship initiatives by becoming the first agency to sign on as a fee paying member of Investing In Our Youth Inc.

Project Officer, Carmen Gregg said that she looked forward to working with business, media and government partners in the future to support the ongoing operations of Investing In Our Youth.

CIVIC RECEPTION



Investing In Our Youth Inc would like to thank the City of Bunbury who very generously acknowledged the awards for Fiona Farren and the Linking Education and Families program with a Civic Reception in December 2009.

At this event, the Mayor presented Fiona Farren with a certificate of recognition and praised the efforts of all partner organizations involved in the LEAF program.

FAMILY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Investing In Our Youth will soon release a directory for families with young children who live in the Manjimup Shire.

The directory has been developed in partnership with the Warren Blackwood Early Years Network and funded through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

The Directory provides a brief on relevant family support services and contact details.

250 copies of the Directory will be printed and anyone wanting to download their own copy can do so from the IIOY web site.

The Manjimup Directory is an addition to directories that have been developed by IIOY for Bunbury and Harvey.

For more information contact Robyn Golding on T 9721 6951.



TRANSPORT ADVOCACY

Chair of Investing In Our Youth, Professor Rhonda Oliver and Deputy Chair, Janelle Leiper, were recently invited to meet with principal policy officers in the Department of transport to discuss transport disadvantage in the South West.

There is clear evidence that lack of transport options has a major impact on the quality of life and health and

wellbeing of people in the South West.

This particularly impacts on young people who are too young to drive or do not own their own vehicle. IIOY will continue to lobby and advocate on the subject of transport disadvantage.

DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES

A new National Quality Framework has been developed and will be implemented in long day care, family day care, outside school hours' care and preschools. The framework will be implemented progressively from July 1, 2010.

As part of the transition process, from July 1, 2010, the National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) will start to assess care services against the National Quality Standard. The National Quality Standard brings together standards covering areas such as staff-to-child ratios, qualifications, and health and safety matters.

CHANGE OVER FROM SW24 TO RURALINK SERVICES

As of January 26, RuralLink will take over the service previously provided to the SW region by SW24.

RuralLink currently operate as state-wide providers of **After Hours** mental health helpline support in Rural WA for **ALL** age groups. It is run by very experienced mental health professionals who will provide information, support, advice and assessment for clients, community members and agencies as well as all health care professionals.

Unlike SW24, RuralLink can provide a service to children and young people. Contact 1800 552 002.

PART TIME REGIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Department for Communities are currently developing a job description for a planned part time Youth Development Officer position for the South West. If you would like to contribute your ideas on the proposed role of the YDO, please contact Judy Trigwell at Judith.trigwell@communities.wa.gov.au.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE NOT ACTIVE

According to recent findings from a state wide survey, the majority of children are not active enough and this behavior usually worsens in adolescence.

About 60 per cent of boys in primary and secondary schools and more than 70 per cent of primary school girls are not getting the recommended amounts of activity.

Secondary school girls are most at risk, with 90 per cent not meeting the recommended 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.

Further key findings of the Western Australian Child and Adolescent Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (CAPANS) will be released by ECU later in the year.

NATIONAL YOUTH SURVEY

Mission Australia has recently released findings of a national survey that involved children and young people aged 11 – 24.

The top issues of concern for young people in 2009 in WA were ranked in the following order: drugs, suicide, physical/sexual abuse, body image and personal safety.

Young people most valued: family relationships and friendships, physical and mental health, and being independent.