

E-NEWSLETTER

January

2013

In this edition...

**Child and Parent Centre
Coordinator**

NYW 2013

**Update on Youth Mental Health
Project**

Cristal Global

Acknowledgements

Developments and Trends

One Life project

Official opening of Headspace

Literacy Resources

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Parents will benefit from access to a range of programs and services specifically catering to the needs of their young children (pre-birth to eight years). Providing services in the early years supports parents to lay the foundations for successful learning and development in the future.

Centre Coordinator Annette Owen will assist with the planning of the Centre and will work with the host school, agencies, community organisations and groups, to ensure the most appropriate services are available and parents are well supported to help their children.



Annette said she was pleased to join the Investing In Our Youth Team, and thanked everyone for making her feel welcome.

"I am very excited to be involved in such a proactive, preventative initiative as the Child and Parent Centre. I am looking forward to working with IIOY, Peter Rigden, Carey Park PS principal, and community members to begin the process of developing the best possible centre for the Bunbury community."

Carey Park is one of 10 Child and Parent Centres being established as part of the State Government's initiative to support parents and children in their early years. The other 9 centres are located at Armadale, Balga, Banksia Grove, Girrawheen, Kwinana, Langford, South Hedland and Westminister.

In breaking news the Government has just announced that six more Child and Parent Centres will be established between 2014 and 2016. The six new centres will be established at East Maddington Primary School, East Waikki, Gosnells, Mount Lockyer (Albany), Rangeway (Geraldton), and Wilson Park (Collie).

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

A number of service providers have banded together to help young people celebrate National Youth Week in Bunbury in 2013. The celebrations will fall on April 13 and include live music, skating demonstrations, art activities and a secret project code named 'Mission Cup Cake'.

Participating organisations include the City of Bunbury, Jobs South West, Mission Australia and Investing In Our Youth.

Other activities will be held throughout the South West. Contact your local shire for more information.

The theme for National Youth Week 2013 is 'BE ACTIVE. BE HAPPY. BE YOU'.

National Youth Week activities are supported by the Department for Communities.

CHILD AND PARENT CENTRE COORDINATOR APPOINTED

Investing In Our Youth is very pleased to welcome Annette Owen, newly appointed Carey Park Child and Parent Centre Coordinator.

In 2013 work will begin on a dedicated Child and Parent Centre at Carey Park Primary School. Located on a public school site, the Centre will be designed to meet the needs of young children and their families allowing parents to access services from one convenient location.

Supported by



Government of Western Australia
Department for Communities

BUILDING STRONG, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

CRISTAL'S COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Cristal Global have once again pledged support for 'Investing In Our Youth' bringing their total financial support over several years to a very substantial \$10,000.

The on-going support of Cristal through corporate membership has been a huge boon. It is wonderful to find corporate leaders who are able and willing to invest in the local community. Cristal Global are effectively supporting local youth mental health, alcohol education, youth leadership and parent support programs.

Cristal Sponsorship Committee Chairperson Summa Hollins said that Cristal was committed to providing opportunities for children and young people in the region. "Young people are our future and we recognise the importance of working in partnership with the not for profit sector to support young people."

A sponsorship committee, made up of employees from different career backgrounds, meet regularly to review community requests. The company makes regular contributions to a wide range of local community groups for sporting, cultural and educational activities.



HANDS UP 4 KIDS

A dedicated steering group continues to meet to support the further development and implementation of the HANDS UP 4 KIDS (HU4K) project.

HU4K is a volunteer reading program. **The focus of the project is to assist young children overcome barriers to reading and comprehension and therefore improve individual academic achievement.**

Community volunteers attend a local primary school where they listen to young children read aloud. School teachers report that they can immediately notice the difference that brief periods of oral reading can make – increasing children's reading levels, fluency, and enthusiasm for reading. The program is already in the first phase of implementation at four primary schools with plans to expand in 2013 to some of the other many schools who have expressed an interest in being involved.

Volunteers report that they find the activity very rewarding. The majority of children come to quickly regard the volunteer as a friend who takes a personal interest in them as an individual. Volunteers soon become ambassadors for the program, recruiting their friends, family members and colleagues.

For more information on HU4K or if you have an interest in volunteering, please contact project coordinator Jan Akaczonok T 9725 8657

E handsup4kids@gmail.com

SOUTH WEST STATISTICS

Investing In Our Youth is planning to put together a compendium of statistics that can be used as a reference by the child and youth service sector in the South West.

This will be made freely available to any services in the South West that find it of interest.

If you have access to recent relevant statistics that can be made publically available, please send on to Carmen at iioy@iinet.net.au.

Investing In Our Youth has enlisted the assistance of the ABS and is interested in working with any other sources that can contribute.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully recognise the ongoing support received from corporate member Mission Australia.



We would like to thank Total Telephone for reducing costs for us during the recent purchase and installation of two laptop computers and a new phone system. Many thanks to you on behalf of Investing In Our Youth management.



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE

Regional Youth Mental Health Development Officer Louise Fischer has hit the ground running and established a list of priority strategies that will help build capacity for early intervention and prevention in the SW.

Louse is currently linking to a project reference group who will help with advice, recommendations and support regarding priority identified actions. Watch this space for more detailed information.



Government of **Western Australia**
Mental Health Commission

DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

BUNBURY ONE LIFE SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY

The Bunbury One Life Suicide Prevention Strategy team (Millie McDermott and Mel Birrell, with the support of host organisation SW VETLink) has just completed stage 1 of their project which involved delivering a

report to the Ministerial Council of Suicide Prevention.

The report identifies locally specific suicide prevention needs and proposes actions designed to support suicide prevention in the Greater Bunbury area.

The report has been developed following direct consultation with resident community groups and professional human service agencies. A Bunbury Suicide Prevention Committee has been formed to process and manage the direction of suicide prevention within the community. A survey completed by 865 people provided a local perspective on community awareness and experiences of suicide.

The consultation process revealed the need for clear pathways to suicide specific support services. It highlighted the known 'at risk' groups which include: males, those experiencing mental illness, and young people aged 15-25 years. Those needing particular support included, but was not limited to, the lesbian / gay / transgender community, young indigenous males, those experiencing bullying or family distress, and those bereaved by suicide.

If funded by the Ministerial Counsel of Suicide Prevention, stage 2 of the project will involve delivering a collaborative strategy with a multileveled 'whole of community' approach to suicide prevention.

In addition, opportunities for training in suicide prevention are currently offered through the One Life program Network Coordinator Shelly O'Brien.

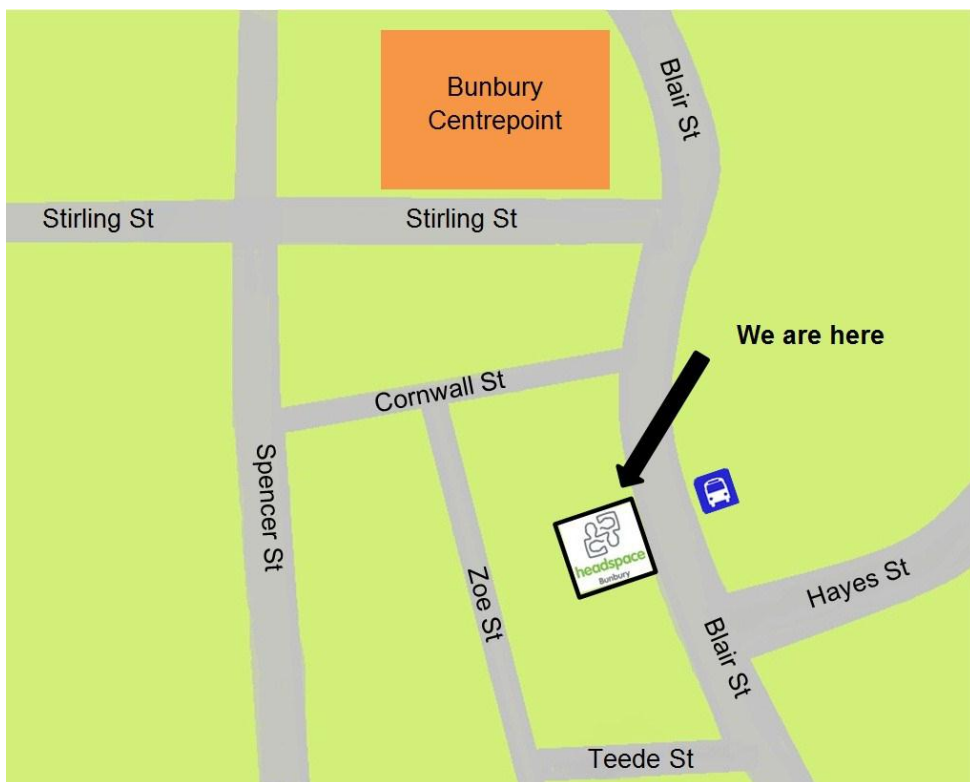
One Life is also seeking businesses to become 'Pledge Partners'. This is a no cost opportunity to receive assistance in developing organisational suicide prevention policy, receive suicide prevention resources, notification of events and suicide awareness opportunities.

For more details on any of the above information please contact Millie at Millie@southwestvetlink.wa.edu.au T 9721 8881 M 0413 849 428; or Mel on Mel@southwestvetlink.wa.edu.au T 9721 881, M 0423 986 519.

headspace BUNBURY IS NOW OPEN!

On January 14 **headspace** Bunbury officially opened its doors to young people.

Young people from across the South West can now access a variety of free services at the new **headspace** Bunbury office at 1/82 Blair Street, Bunbury.



The Centre is available to young people aged 12 to 25 who are going through a tough time. They may be feeling down, stressed or worried, have concerns about alcohol or other health issues, have relationship worries or need advice about education or finding work. No referral is required.

Visit www.headspace.org.au to find out what to expect when visiting a Centre or call headspace Bunbury on 9729 6800 or email info@headspacebunbury.org.au



Young people wishing to access free online and telephone support can do so through the eheadspace service. For more information: www.eheadspace.org.au/

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Coordinator for the South West, Lee Miles, has been working closely with key stakeholders and communities developing strategies to improve education, skills and employment outcomes. An identified community priority is language and literacy.

Lee has been working with stakeholders to develop a language and literacy directory. The aim of the directory is to have an easy reference to services that support language and literacy development in the SW – from the very young to adults.

The draft language and literacy resource has been circulated for review and will be launched in the near future.

Contact Lee for more information on

E lee.miles@deewr.gov.au or call 0412 440 531.