

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

# Envoy



## Investing In Our Youth Newsletter

January 2014

### Welcome

It is a brand new year and an opportunity for fresh beginnings.

What is coming up for Investing In Our Youth this year?

- Consolidation of new projects— the Child and Parent Centres at Carey Park and Collie
- The development of a Regional Children's Services Plan
- Continuation of innovative mental health early intervention and prevention strategies through the Regional Youth Mental Health role
- Striving to provide optimal support to staff and our Board so they can effectively carry out their work

All at Investing In Our Youth look forward to a busy and productive year and thank you for your continued interest and support.

### Inside this issue:

McCAAY Awards 2

Liquor Control Act Review 3

### Child and Parent Centre for Collie

In November, Education Minister Peter Collier announced that Investing In Our Youth had been selected to co-ordinate programs and services at the Child and Parent Centre at Wilson Park Primary School in Collie.

Five organisations have been selected to co-ordinate programs and services at six new Child and Parent Centres to provide essential early childhood services.

"The Child and Parent Centres are part of a wider push to ensure that more children start formal schooling ready to learn and fulfil their potential, rather than playing catchup from day one," Minister Collier said.

"Parents and carers will be able to form a relationship with a local primary school



from the time their child is born, enabling them to get advice about all kinds of matters important to their child's early development."

A key to building a solid foundation in the early years is to make sure that families know about and have ready access to

affordable support services within their immediate communities.

Plans are being drawn up for the new purpose built Centre at host school Wilson Park. The building is expected to be completed in December 2015.

### Introducing new staff member Kate Darcey

Kate Darcey will occupy the new role of Regional Development Officer – Children's Services.

We are very pleased to welcome Kate to our organisation as she brings a great depth of experience in planning and supporting children's services.

This two year project is funded through the Regional Community Child Care Development Fund to support the

development of sustainable models of regional community-managed education and care that meet the needs of families living in regional Western Australia. Funding has been provided by the Royalties for Regions budget and is administered by the Department of Local Government and Communities.



Department of Local Government and Communities  
Department of Regional Development



**New Board member Richard Tagiston**

## Board members for 2014

Investing In Our Youth is very fortunate to have a dynamic Board managing the organisation.

In 2014, new member Richard Tagiston from Bunbury Community Legal Centre will be joining:

Chairperson Professor Rhonda Oliver, Deputy June Foulds, Treasurer Mark Jennings, and Janelle Lieper, Alan Kidd, Steve Denton, Karen Collins, Lisa Glover, and Amanda Taylor.

The following is a list of desired personal attributes for the important work of serving on a Board (*The Director Journal (AICD) October 2005*).

**Integrity**

**Curiosity and Courage**

**Interpersonal skills**

**Genuine interest**

**Instinct**

**Active contributors**

Investing In Our Youth Board members have a key role in setting organisation key objectives, responsibly managing finances and taking a risk management and monitoring role.

**“Learn how to give children and young people the skills to understand and regulate their emotions.”**

## MindUP Training Opportunity

Investing In Our Youth along with the Benevolent Society, are bringing pioneering ‘MindUP’ training to Bunbury late in January 2014. Based on the latest research into Neuroscience and links to social and emotional well being, MindUP provides a curriculum addressing these fundamentals.

Participants will learn how to give children and young people the skills to understand and regulate their emotions.

Targeted at the education system, this

program can always be adapted to social workers, youth workers, private counsellors and anyone interested in a building their tools and learning a new approach to working with children, youth and adults.

Training (one full day) is available on January 30. For more information, contact Louise Fischer [louise.fischer@iinet.net.au](mailto:louise.fischer@iinet.net.au) or access the training flyer at:

[http://www.investinginouryouth.com.au/\\_content/Documents/mindup1.pdf](http://www.investinginouryouth.com.au/_content/Documents/mindup1.pdf)



**Tonia McCusker and Carmen Gregg**

## McAAY Awards

Investing In Our Youth was a finalist in the recent McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol (McAAY) awards.

A framed certificate was presented by Tonia McCusker to Investing In Our Youth Executive Officer Carmen Gregg.

Investing In Our Youth has relied on the assistance of a local steering group to support alcohol awareness activities.

In 2013 those members included Jenny Payet, Regional Alcohol and Other Drug Coordinator; April Ten Brinke,

City of Bunbury; Aaron Hill, South West Community Drug Service Team; Amanda Taylor and Louise Fischer in the Youth Development Role with the Department of Local Government and Communities.

The McAAY awards recognise individuals, groups, organisations and initiatives that generate action on alcohol and raise awareness.

## Liquor Control Act Review Finalised

The State Government will meet with key stakeholders before forming a response to a recent independent review of the Liquor Control Act 1988.

Key recommendations relevant to young people include:

- Increasing funding for community education campaigns. Education campaigns undertaken should include material focussed on the responsibility of adults as role models.
- Prohibiting or restricting promotional activity which is likely to impact on children.
- Making it an offence for a person to supply liquor to a juvenile on unlicensed premises.

- Introducing offences for the misuse of proof of age documents.
- Enabling WA Police to use an alcohol intervention program as an alternative to issuing an infringement notice for minor offences committed by juveniles.

Unfortunately the report recommends that extended trading permits should be retained.

The research is clear that reducing trading hours results in a decrease in alcohol-related harm.

Hotels in Perth that operate with extended trading have double the number of assaults in and around their vicinity.



Liquor Policy Review

To access the full report and 141 recommendations go to

[www.rgl.wa.gov.au](http://www.rgl.wa.gov.au)

## Parenting programs deliver dramatic results

In November, the State announced an increase in funding for the most at risk families in regional Western Australia through Responsible Parenting Services.

Responsible Parenting Services include Best Beginnings, which supports vulnerable new mothers, and Parent Support, which helps parents of school aged children deal with anti-social behavior.

Best beginnings works with the most vulnerable young mothers with infants up to two years of age, to establish parenting skills, form attachment to their baby and become engaged with their community.

An evaluation shows that parents value the program and it has resulted in significant changes in their parenting.

**New funds to help parents**

## Closer to home...

Our Patron, Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan, has stepped into the blogosphere. To read his periodic postings on policing, crime prevention and other related issues, go to What Really Matters on the WA Police website. Read his first article on the blog: Kids and Alcohol: <http://www.police.wa.gov.au/tabid/1994/Default.aspx>

Noteworthy developments for our Chairperson Professor Rhonda Oliver include ongoing research in the area of language and literacy which this year will involve using Online learning as a way to promote literacy learning for Aboriginal

students; looking at factors that promote or hinder the retention of Aboriginal students at University. Rhonda will also have a post-doc fellow joint her from the Basque country—looking at research on child foreign language learning.

Last but not least, this year staff member Louise Fischer is embarking on a Bachelor of Science degree at UWA with a double major in neuroscience and neuropsychology.

It is great to be surrounded by such initiative and positive energy.



**Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan with Professor Rhonda Oliver**