

E-NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE

Young People and Alcohol

Early Years Advocacy

**Board Member Profile –
Rosalie Carmichael**

Acknowledgements

Developments and Trends

CONTACT US

T 08 9721 6951

E iioy@iinet.net.au

www.investinginouryouth.com.au

**YOUNG PEOPLE AND
ALCOHOL**

Investing In Our Youth (IIOY) continue to target youth alcohol consumption in 2011 with a variety of strategies.

COMING SOON – BE ALCOHOL AWARE COMPETITION!

Investing In Our Youth, the South West Community Drug Service Team, and the South Western Times are partnering to support a competition for young people in the South West Region.

The City of Bunbury Youth Advisory Council (YAC) has assisted in developing competition details.

Young people aged 12 to 17 years are invited to develop a poster or video clip that promotes the following Australian alcohol guidelines for young people:

JULY

- For children and young people under 18 years of age, not drinking is the safest option
- Young people aged 15-17 years should delay their first drink for as long as possible
- Young people under the age of 15 years are at greatest risk of harm from drinking and it is especially important that they do not drink alcohol

The competition will open on July 25 and close on September 16. (This time line has been chosen to coincide with the third term of school so that it will be possible for schools to encourage young people to complete the project in media, art or health classes).

Competition categories:

1. 12-14 years free hand A3 poster
2. 12-14 years A3 poster using computer or photos
3. 15-17 years free hand A3 poster
4. 15-17 years A3 poster using computer or photos
5. 12-17 years video clip

See the South Western Times for more information or contact Investing In Our Youth.

SEMINAR ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALCOHOL

Supported by Healthway and the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, IIOY will draw key speakers to Bunbury to present latest findings and strategies to address teen drinking.

Key speakers will include WA Commissioner of Police Dr Karl O'Callaghan, Prof Mike Daube, and Bruce Clark from the Leigh Clark Foundation.

2011

For this excellent opportunity to hear from experts on the topic of young people and alcohol please save the date - Friday, September 30 - in your calendar. More information will follow.



BE ALCOHOL AWARE PROJECT

Young people in the SW are taking the lead by developing their own ideas on tackling alcohol.

Across the region, young people are developing many innovative alcohol awareness strategies. These include developing posters and slogans; designing quiz sheets featuring questions on alcohol facts; and presenting alcohol education through many forms including recreation activities like dance and drumming workshops.

Funding support for alcohol awareness activities can be sourced through Investing In Our Youth's 'Be Alcohol Aware' project.

Investing In Our Youth Chairperson Associate Professor Rhonda Oliver said that while most alcohol education for young people was mediated by adults it was good to turn this around and involve young people in developing their own messages and activities.

Investing In Our Youth encourage schools and youth groups who have not yet applied for funding for alcohol awareness activities to find out more

about this opportunity on the Investing In Our Youth web site.

The Be Alcohol Aware project is supported by the Department for Communities – Youth.

Supported by



Government of **Western Australia**
Department for **Communities**

BUILDING STRONG, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

EARLY YEARS ADVOCACY

SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

Local health and education delegates were recently given the opportunity to explore innovative ways to work together at a 'think tank' hosted by Investing In Our Youth.

The workshop was organised in response to recent interest in the 'community in schools' concept and increasing focus on the 'one stop' availability of developmental and educational services for young children.

According to education representatives, children are presenting to school with many different needs in ever increasing numbers. It is hoped that the workshop is a first step in collectively finding some solutions to these concerning trends.

Workshop participants showed a great willingness to be flexible and consider a range of partnership ideas, shared practices, and possible joint service models. Investing In Our Youth Chair person, Assoc Prof Rhonda Oliver, said it was wonderful to witness this solution focused approach and enthusiasm for proactive planning.

A workshop report will soon be released for review and will be available on the IIOY web site.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE – Rosalie Carmichael



Tell us about your background Rosalie
I joined the board of IIOY while I was working with Mission Australia which had two youth programs. I am now working with Morrissey Homestead Inc which has two day centers for people with disabilities. Our client ages range from 17 – 95years. We have 40 young people between the ages of 17 and 25 years who enjoy a range of activities during the week at the centers and on weekend outings.

Prior to developing an interest in youth and joining Mission Australia, my working background has been with various Federal Government departments.

Why do you support Investing In Our Youth?

IIOY provides an avenue to bring like-minded parties together to source funding and research project opportunities in order to provide better outcomes for young people and children. This is an important role to play in developing healthy and confident future generations.

What would you like IIOY to achieve in the future?

I would like IIOY to be an influence in the decision making process of government relating to the interests of children and young people.

What are some of your other interests?

I have recently joined the committee for the new Citizen Advice Bureau in Bunbury and look forward to assisting the committee in developing the Bureau. I worship at St Boniface Anglican Cathedral, enjoy meeting with the members of my book-club and Flower Designers Club monthly, square dancing each week, sailing our boat on Koombana Bay, and of course watching the Dockers win and lose games at Patterson's Stadium in Perth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SIMPLY THE BEST TREASURER

Long serving Investing In Our Youth treasurer Mark Jennings was recently recognised for his voluntary contribution to the community at a presentation for community treasurers held by the Westpac bank in Bunbury.

Congratulations Mark for providing more than ten years of committed service as a treasurer and member of the IIOY Board.

Westpac has also recently assisted IIOY by sponsoring our attendance at a finance workshop titled "7 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL NOT FOR PROFIT". Should any one be interested in attending a financial workshop they can contact Paul Keenan to discuss options & cost. (pkeen@westpac.com.au).



CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

Investing In Our Youth is currently actively seeking sponsors to support our work. We would like to acknowledge Cristal Global and the South West Development Commission who currently support Investing In Our Youth through an annual corporate membership fee.



SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT CALLS FOR ALCOHOL REGULATION

The Education and Health Standing Committee, chaired by Dr Janet Woollard MP, released a report to parliament on June 23 titled: 'Alcohol: Reducing the harm and curbing the culture of excess'. The full report contains 60 recommendations including the following:

- Prevent people supplying alcohol to a juvenile under 18 years without parental consent
- Introduce 'controlled purchasing operations' to prevent the illegal selling of alcohol to a juvenile

- Limit alcohol advertising produced in Western Australia
- Replace sporting sponsorships by the alcohol industry
- Make drug and alcohol education a mandatory part of the school curriculum
- Fund a campaign on the dangers of consuming alcohol while pregnant
- Fund additional beds, staff, and programs for community and hospital-based alcohol and drug treatment services; and
- Fund state-wide alcohol prison diversion programs, and prison treatment services
- Reduce late night trading

The Board of IIOY will be lobbying local members and Minister for Health Dr Kim Hames to promote support for key recommendations from the report.

We encourage individuals and agencies to urge Cabinet to support alcohol regulation. Please make the most of this small window of opportunity to put your case before parliament hands down a response to the report in approximately three months' time.

The full report to parliament has been posted on the IIOY web site at www.investinginouryouth.com.

REMOVING FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO INVOLVMENT IN SPORT

The State government recently announced an allocation of \$10 million over four years for KidsSport – a new initiative that will assist young people who would not normally be able to afford to participate in community sporting clubs.

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) are still consulting with various sporting codes, local governments and other agencies on the best way to roll this funding out.

Further information will be made available through the Department's web site at www.dsr.wa.gov.au

LOCAL DRUG ACTION GROUP STARTS UP IN BUNBURY

Expressions of interest are sought for members of a new Bunbury Districts Local Drug Action Group (LDAG). For more information please contact Garry Henderson garrystewarthenderson@yahoo.com.

The aim of Local Drug Action Groups is to empower the whole of community to respond to alcohol and other drug issues by providing resources and support.

LDAGs provide an opportunity for people to actively participate in their local community. Made up of volunteers, LDAGs take action to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug related harm.

In the SW region there are active LDAG branches in the Shires of Busselton, Harvey, Dardanup, Bridgetown Greenbushes, Manjimup, Boyup-Brooke, and Nannup. There is also an active Bunbury Noongar group

For more information on LDAGs and branch contact details, please see the LDAG website at www.localdrugaction.com.au.

BUNBURY LAUNCHES YOUTH SPACE NETWORK

The City of Bunbury recently launched an innovative new network of youth friendly businesses and organisations under the City of Bunbury YouthSpace Network.

Membership is open to all Bunbury businesses and organisations with an interest in youth where members sign a code of conduct, agreeing to deal fairly with young people and help create 'youth friendly' spaces in Bunbury.

Members can be identified by a 'Youth Friendly' sticker on their business or organisations door or front window.

The YouthSpace Network aims to identify current and potential youth spaces, help facilitate the ongoing delivery and development of youth friendly attitudes, employment and work experience opportunities for young

people and the development of new events and activities.

For more information contact Andrew Rigg, City of Bunbury Youth Development Officer on T 9792 7000 or email arigg@bunbury.wa.gov.au.

REPORT ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Commissioner for Children and Young People WA Michelle Scott has conducted an independent Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia.

54 recommendations were released under the following relevant headings:-

- Acknowledging the mental health needs of children and young people
- A comprehensive approach
- Governance
- Involving children and young people
- Innovative service models
- Gaps in services – promotion and prevention
- Gaps in services – early intervention and treatment
- Vulnerable children and young people
- Building the capacity of the non-government sector
- Building the capacity of the workforce
- Data collection and monitoring

The 'take home' message from the Commissioner was that we have not paid sufficient attention to the existence of mental health problems and illnesses affecting infants, children and young people and that a substantial boost to services is needed.

Attached to this newsletter is an overview of a recent home grown local promotion developed by the South West Women's Health and Information Centre aiming to promote the message that not drinking during pregnancy is the safest option. Please circulate this information.