

Introducing 'Positive Tickets'

- Contributed by Louise Fischer, SW Youth Mental Health Development Officer



There is a paradigm shift occurring between the young people of Busselton and the Police Local Area Command. A movement toward Police actively seeking out good behaviour demonstrated by our young citizens: the program is called Positive Tickets. Positive Tickets has evolved from a Canadian project which was adopted at Burnie, Tasmania and was managed by Senior Constable Ian Edwards. After coming across the program, Investing In Our Youth decided to pursue interest with the local police – it was agreed that Busselton would be in the best position to pilot the program.

How do we know young people will respond positively to the program? A recent canvass of youth and police relations, 'The City of Busselton Youth Voice Survey' developed by Georgiana Molloy Anglican School, Southern Rip and Lamp, found that 83% of young people surveyed, regarded Positive Tickets as a program worth implementing in the Busselton area.

There were also opinions expressed that the rewards should consist of local business vouchers. This was a particularly interesting and exciting find; the concept of Positive Tickets is not solely about relations between youth and police but that of the broader community investing in young people – this is a social investment that

potentially has a ripple effect throughout the community.

So how does it actually work? Initially, Positive Tickets will operate through local police officers who witness for example, positive behaviours such as wearing bike helmets, however, it could also be that a young person reports a crime, hands in a wallet or has been found assisting someone in need and they are rewarded by the officers for this positive behaviour. It is, in fact, that simple.

Positive Tickets in Busselton will be established and implemented with the fundamental principles of Positive Psychology. These concepts are grounded in positive relationships and accomplishments. Gable & Haidt, (2005) defined the study of positive psychology as a "process that contributes to the flourishing or optimal functioning of people, groups and institutions".

The core notions regarding this approach are:

- Engagement through nurturing relationships.
- Identifying strengths.
- Performing small acts of kindness contributing to psychological wellbeing; and
- Altruism: through the practised interest and concern for the wellbeing of others.

The key here is the identifying and noting of strengths. Positive Tickets does not claim to solve the incidence of juvenile crime, however, it does aim to promote solid relationships between police and youth and local business and youth. The goal here is to move away from reactionary monitoring to active engagement in the positive behaviours.

Positive Tickets is due to be implemented in Busselton in the latter half of 2013.

The South West Youth Mental Health Development Officer role is jointly supported by the South West Development Commission and the Mental Health Commission.

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HANDS UP 4 KIDS Update

- Contributed by Jan Akaczonk, Coordinator, Hands Up 4 Kids (pictured)



The Hands Up 4 Kids supportive listening literacy program has now been operating in selected Bunbury and Australind primary schools for 12 months.

We are continuing to attract interest from community members who are keen to help children improve their reading skills. After beginning with 2 volunteers in June 2012, we now have 85 registered volunteers. Our people include retirees, teachers, social workers, office workers, cleaners, grandparents - the list goes on as a real representation of the community. A group of student teachers from ECU are volunteering as part of the community contribution component of their course. We also have support from the business community with HBF and WFI releasing employees as corporate volunteers each week.

HU4K is established in six primary schools in the greater Bunbury region and we are now recruiting for a team to start at Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School at the beginning of term 3.

Each school has a team of at least 10 volunteers who report that they thoroughly enjoy their one hour per week listening to the children read. Some volunteers are so keen that they stay for longer or attend two or three times a week. We have many stories, such as one little boy telling a volunteer that "she can come on every day of the week", informing us that the children accept and benefit from the contact and reading practice that HU4K provides.

Class teachers, Principals, Deputy Principals and Literacy Coordinators who are involved are very appreciative of the help provided by our volunteers and work cooperatively with us to ensure that everything runs smoothly and the best outcomes are achieved.

For the future – more volunteers, more schools, many more children helped to improve their reading.

Grateful thanks are extended to Carmen for her assistance and wise counsel and to Investing In Our Youth for its continued support.

Be Alcohol Aware

Youth groups, agencies, and schools are reminded that funding is available for activities that involve young people in alcohol awareness / education pursuits.

This month Investing In Our Youth approved two applications for alcohol awareness activities – one through Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation around NAIDOC week activities for young people and one from Mission Australia around

holiday activities (in partnership with Bunbury PCYC).

The Mission Australia activity will include consequences of consuming / misusing alcohol, harm minimisation strategies, how to respond to peer pressure, and strategies to use to say 'no'. Young people will be invited to express their ideas through art (canvas, banner and t-shirts).

The Goomburrup activities aim to strengthen respect for and knowledge of culture and bonds between Elders and younger people; strengthen respect for traditional, healthy lifestyle that was alcohol free; encourage healthy lifestyle choices: traditional bush activities, sport, nutritious food and through it all great times enjoyed without alcohol; an awareness that the best times, the most argument free times, are enjoyed without alcohol and, conversely, an awareness of the trouble that comes from alcohol (feuding, crime, violence, domestic violence, etc.); use of traditional communication and authority structures to convey and reinforce key message of alcohol awareness (e.g. Elders talking with younger, yarning based around other activities, consensus based decision-making, males and females undertaking separate activities and discussions).

For more information on the Be Alcohol Aware grants, contact Carmen on T9721 6951 or E iioy@iinet.net.au

In 2013, the Be Alcohol Aware project is supported by Telethon. Investing In Our Youth was very proud to be part of a recent event for Telethon beneficiaries held at the Perth Convention Centre (see pic below).



Acknowledgements

We wish to thank long standing supporters Cristal Global who have annually donated funds towards promoting the healthy development of children and young people. Cristal has supported Investing In Our Youth over several years as part of their commitment to giving back through philanthropic efforts.



Investing In Our Youth are very happy to be one of three lucky local community groups selected by Bendigo Bank to feature in their 'like a local project campaign'. The resulting cheque from Bendigo Bank for \$500 will be used to support a competition for young people to promote alcohol guidelines through a poster and YouTube competition.



Pictured L to R: IIOY board members Karen Collins and June Foulds, EO Carmen Gregg, Bendigo Bank staff member Jackie Buchanan and Manager Sherrie Morgan.



Developments and Trends

Mission Australia (Bunbury) has moved to 103 Clarke St in a new co-location arrangement with Centrecare.

The Mission Australia team will be missed by colleagues on the Upper Level of 51-55 Forrest Ave, but at least are not leaving town!

The collection of not for profit organisations now working from the Upper Level of 51-55 Forrest Ave include True Colours, SW VETlink (and 1Life Suicide Prevention Program), the Newton Moore Community Work Centre, Investing In Our Youth, and Playgroup WA.

FACT SHEET

What are Child and Parent Centres?

Child and Parent Centres provide early childhood support, services and programs to parents with children up to eight years old (including parents expecting children). Most services focus on the needs of children from birth to four years as these are the years when children experience the greatest rate of development.

Services and programs for each centre are determined by the local community. Centre coordinators work with parents, schools, government agencies and community organisations to determine which services are needed and wanted in each community. Services may include:

- maternal and child health services
- early learning programs
- playgroups
- parenting information
- referrals to other support services.

Why are Child and Parent Centres being established?

Centres will offer programs and services that support parents and help children develop and learn during their early years. Research shows that the early years are especially critical times for young children and how they develop and learn during this time can influence their success at school and in later life.

By providing this support, government agencies and community organisations are able to help parents provide the foundations for their children's successful learning and development.

Who manages the Child and Parent Centres?

Each Child and Parent Centre is managed in partnership with a well-respected non-government organisation. Working with government agencies, community organisations, schools and local groups, the non-government organisation will coordinate services that respond to the needs of the local community.

Where are the Child and Parent Centres located?

Child and Parent Centres are being established in 16 communities throughout Western Australia. Located on public school sites, these family-friendly centres will be open to all parents and carers.

Suburb	Location	Non-government Organisation	Completed by end of
Albany	Mount Lockyer Primary School	to be decided	2015
Armadale	Challis Early Childhood Education Centre	Parkerville Children and Youth Care	2013
Balga	Warriapendi Primary School	Mercy Community Services	2013
Banksia Grove	Neerabup Primary School	Ngala Community Services	2013
Bunbury	Carey Park Primary School	Investing in our Youth	2014
Collie	Wilson Park Primary School	to be decided	2015
Geraldton	Rangeway Primary School	to be decided	2015
Girrawheen	Roseworth Primary School	The Smith Family	2014
Gosnells	Gosnells Primary School	to be decided	2015
Kwinana	Calista Primary School	Ngala Community Services	2014
Langford	Brookman Primary School	Parkerville Children and Youth Care	2014
Maddington	East Maddington Primary School	to be decided	2015
Mandurah	Dudley Park Primary School	Anglicare	2014
South Hedland	South Hedland Primary School	YMCA – Youth and Community Services	2014
Waikiki	East Waikiki Primary School	to be decided	2015
Westminster	Westminster Junior Primary School	The Smith Family	2014