

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

# Envoy



## Investing In Our Youth Newsletter

July 2014

### Welcome

Thank you for your ongoing interest in Investing In Our Youth.

Our mission is to support the healthy development of children and young people in the South West region.

We achieve our mission by working in partnership with business, agencies and the community. Our focus is on early intervention and prevention.

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### OVERVIEW

What has been occupying Investing In Our Youth in the May to July quarter? We have undergone a recruitment process to staff the Child and Parent Centre at Carey Park. We have also been busy equipping the Centre and overseeing the development of an outdoor nature play area.

Our Community Coordinator Annette Owen has planned a schedule of programs and activities for families, and in partnership with the City of Bunbury, is organising a 'Let's Play' community event on August 6.

Our Child and Youth Mental Health Development Officer Louise Fischer supported the delivery of an innovative 'Deliberate Self Harm' forum in June. An evaluation of the event found that participants appreciated the structure of the forum - the panel of experts



A recent meeting between Investing In Our Youth staff members and the WA Commissioner for Police Dr Karl O'Callaghan secured the Commissioner's endorsement for continuation of the Child and Youth Mental Health Development role and the Positive Tickets program.

(diversity, knowledge and experience), the opportunity to ask questions (audience engagement) and information sharing during and after the forum.

Investing In Our Youth have been advocating for second stage funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health Development Officer role and were very privileged to gain the endorsement of our Patron WA Police Commissioner Dr Karl O'Callaghan.

The Commissioner understands the value

of investing in early intervention and prevention and is supportive of the efforts of Investing In Our Youth.

Collie Valley Child and Parent Centre Community Coordinator Sandra Robertson has been gathering data and information that will provide an evidence base for planning programs and activities at the Centre.

Building plans are progressing well and the Centre is expected to be completed in October 2015.

Our SW Regional Children's Development Officer Kate Darcey is making good progress in identifying strategic long term approaches to supporting service initiatives and networks for families and children in the SW region. The focus of this project is on education and child care services. This is an exciting development and we are very keen to support opportunities for greater collaboration between education and child care services and the broader early years sector.

Kate is ably supported by a project reference group that includes Anna Oades (SWDC), Allison Fergie (Shire of Collie), Sharon Wilkinson (Shire of Manjimup), Susie Perkins (Department of Local Government and Communities), Karen Collins (Playgroup WA), Jan Lawrie (Early Years Consultant), Jenni Burgess (Child Australia) and Julia Poole (YMCA).

We have also made some headway in progressing supported strategies through the Schools of the Future forum. This includes attempts to secure sponsorship to bring renowned 'Bridges Out of Poverty' training to the SW; exploring opportunities to support allied health regional student placements in the SW; and working with Kate Darcey to support cooperative initiatives, ideas and actions across education and care services, children's services, and networks for families and children.

## WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

Investing In Our Youth welcomes new staff members Deborah Woods and Pam Macnish. We are very confident that we have gathered a great team in Annette, Deb, and Pam at the Child and Parent Centre Carey Park.

Deb Woods will fill the part-time role of Early Childhood Activity Leader. The role

will involve organising early childhood activities at and through the Centre as well as coordinating crèche workers and volunteers. Deb has an extensive background in working with families and is an accredited Early Years Educator.



Pam Macnish (pictured below) has taken up the part time role of Family Liaison Worker. Pam will help to engage families in programs and activities and link them to professional support using strength-based and family-centred approaches. Pam is well equipped to do this work as she has previously occupied similar positions.



Neither of these roles are designed to duplicate existing services but rather to support collaborative service delivery.

Agencies or individuals wishing to connect to Deb or Pam can do so on the following emails...

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and  
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or telephone 9721 6991.

## AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank the South West Development Commission for funding a 'Shaping Brains' playgroup at Maidens Park Primary School over the course of this year.

In partnership with the Child and Parent Centre Carey Park the South West Development Commission are also supporting a 'Mums and Kids' walking group at Withers. The walk takes off from Withers library on Mondays at 9am. Dads, grandparents and carers are, of course, also welcome.



The City of Bunbury Early Years Officer and Community Development Team have taken a leading role in planning a 'Let's Play' event at the Child and Parent Centre – Carey Park on the morning of August 6. A host of child-friendly activities and entertainment will be on offer including face-painting, nature play, orienteering, footy clinic, photo-booth, fairies and pirates.

The first 100 children through the gate will receive a raincoat, gum boots and morning tea. Spot prizes will also be handed out over the course of the event. Free fruit and refreshments will be on offer for all attendees.



Australian Early Development Index



Leschenault Men's shed recently delivered a fantastic hand crafted kitchenette to the Child and Parent Centre—Carey Park.

Spokesperson Kevin Blacker said that the Men's Shed had a very diverse membership. Kevin, who is a former school teacher, drew up the plans, and Frank Costello and George Tooke (an electrician and truck driver) constructed the kitchen. They did a wonderful job and added to the design as it progressed.

Apparently each Men's Shed has its own unique culture depending on the interests and skills of the members who attend. The membership of the Leschenault Men's Shed has grown so much in recent years that the workshop has just doubled in size.

This project has also refreshed a nostalgic link to Carey Park school. Kevin taught at Carey Park many years ago and says he still has contact with students from his time there.

This partnership is a wonderful example of how the Child and Parent Centre can work with the community to carry out their aim to support parents. The early years is a very important time for children's development and learning.

