

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

Envoy



Investing In Our Youth Newsletter

July 2015

Welcome

Investing In Our Youth is a community based not for profit organisation based in the South West of Western Australia.

Our vision is to create a healthy and safe community environment where all young people are valued and supported to reach their full potential.

Investing In Our Youth achieves its vision by working with other community service organisations, business, government and the wider community to generate ideas and facilitate projects, services and community plans that will foster the development of children and young people in the South West region.

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News in Brief

It's that time of year, and at Investing In Our Youth we are thinking of biannual reports, annual reports and budgets.

But it's not all humdrum. There is great excitement in Collie with the new Child and Parent Centre building nearing completion and plans for programs and resources taking shape.

There are some fresh perspectives for Investing In Our Youth with a new Chairman of the Board, Ian Telfer joining us. We are also looking forward to a review and strategic planning process to commence soon.

We have also received good news in the form of further approved funding for the South West Regional Children's Services Plan project. The project has received a boost through strategic grant funding from the Regional Community Child Care Development Fund.

More good news arrived this quarter when Lotterywest confirmed recently that our request for organisational development support has been approved. We look forward to working with an experienced HR consultant to take us to a high level of competence in human resource management.



Department of Local Government and Communities
Department of Regional Development

The grants will build Investing In Our Youth's capacity to assist children's services in the South West to access resources and tools to support the sustainability of their services.



Introducing Investing In Our Youth Chairperson Ian Telfer

Investing In Our Youth is very fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated group of Board members leading the organisation.

We are very pleased to welcome new Chairman of the Board Ian Telfer to the team.

Ian has lived and worked in the SW for the past 30 years and is currently employed as the CEO for WAPRES.

Ian's extensive business management experience will be very valuable to Investing In Our Youth into the future.

Ian has always maintained an interest in the social and economic development of the region. Other interests include membership of Rotary, President Pathways SW, Chair Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance, and volunteer with the Donnybrook St Johns Ambulance Service.



Volunteers are the best!!



Jill Cooney

Jill Cooney is one of the wonderful volunteers who help at our Child and Parent Centre in Carey Park.

With nine grandchildren of her own, and many special interests and hobbies, Jill still makes time to help out at the Centre one day per week.

She is a wonderful all-rounder but really shines in the office, taking care of business.

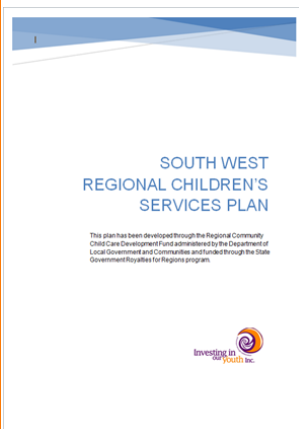
You may hear Jill's dulcet tones on the phone if you ring through on the Centre's 9721 6991 number.

Centre Coordinator Annette Owen said that the volunteers were a real asset to the Centre and Jill was just wonderful.

Jill found out about the Centre through YouthCare and was inspired to become involved when she heard a talk by Annette and Peter Rigden (Carey Park Principal).

"I've always loved children", said Jill, "and like to be around them." Jill is even able to rope in husband Vince sometimes to help and both were key to the success of the recent Breakfast Club for Parents event at Maiden's Park school.

SW Regional Children's Services Plan



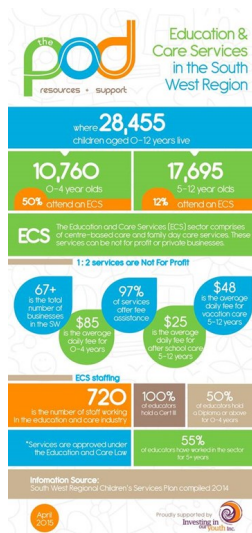
Good news! The SW Regional Children's Services Plan has been approved for public release. The plan maps early years' services in the region with a particular focus on education and care (child care) services. This plan, along with other plans developed in WA regions will feed into a state-wide regional children's services plan.

Information gathered for the plan shows that providing education and care services for children in regional and rural areas can be challenging. Some services need to contend with

geographical distance, smaller numbers of children, isolation, limited resources and a lack of access to training and professional development opportunities.

What can be done? Recommended actions have been detailed under the following four key strategic directions: 1) networking and professional development; 2) business support and development; 3) coordination and linkages; and 4) advocacy. For more detail, access the plan at <http://investinginouryouth.com.au/the-plan/>.

Developments in the Early Years



In a win for the South West, Investing In Our Youth project officer Louise Fischer is currently collating early years' information and statistics relevant to each Local Government in the South West.

This information could be a great springboard for those local Shires who

are aiming to develop a local Early Years Strategy.

The information will be available in reports and through handy data summaries like the one pictured left.

For more information, contact Louise Louise.Fischer@investinginouryouth.com.au.

Kindergarten Program for Aboriginal Children

Education and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Peter Collier recently announced a kindergarten program for three-year-old Aboriginal children that will be called 'KindiLink'. The program can provide play and learn sessions for two hours, three times a week for children and their parents.

KindiLink is a voluntary, pilot program that will initially run for three years and start next year at 37 schools. Two of those schools are in the South West – Djidi Djidi Primary School at Glen Iris, and Amaroo Primary School in Collie.

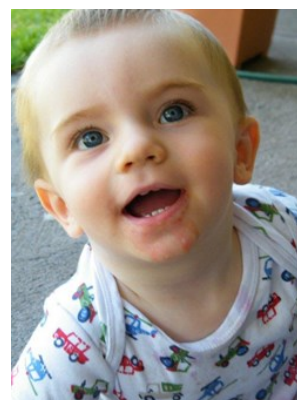
Local 'Schools of the Future' Network Aims High

At a recent 'Schools of the Future' network meeting, Chair Alan Kidd challenged the group to think about changes in the way we approach early childhood, including expectations, pedagogy, wrap around health services, pre-kindergarten intervention, parenting, playgroups, and anything else that might make a difference.

Subsequently a sub-committee has been convened on August 6 to begin planning a cross-agency blueprint for early childhood development.

Schools of the Future is a local SW network of education, health, and human service agencies who meet quarterly to 'advocate for best practice in early childhood intervention and prevention in terms of achieving the best health and learning outcomes for children aged 0-8 years.'

For more information, contact Carmen
Carmen.Gregg@investinginouryouth.com.au



Positions Vacant at Investing In Our Youth

Investing In Our Youth is currently recruiting for the part time position of Early Years Activity Leader at the Child and Parent Centre Collie Valley.

The Centre is a family-friendly facility that will offer programs and services to support parents and help children develop and learn in their early years.

The Early Years Activity Leader will be responsible for implementing early learning programs, in consultation with the Child and Parent Centre Coordinator Carole English.

We are seeking an individual who has a warm and welcoming personality, who loves children and enjoys working with families.

A position description and selection criteria is available on the Investing In Our Youth website
<http://investinginouryouth.com.au/career-opportunities/>, or by calling 9721 6951.

