

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

Envoy



Investing In Our Youth Newsletter

October 2017

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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AGM 2

Playful Learning 3

Funding Support for Regional Child Care

The State Government has confirmed that regional education and care (child care) services in Western Australia will continue to receive support to build capacity and remain viable in the regions.

The support, which will be funded through the Regional Community Child Care Development Fund will see funds directed to key regional programs.

Community Services and Women's Interests Minister Simone McGurk said that the continuation of the fund was critical to addressing some of the unique issues faced by early childhood education and care services in regional Western Australia, including sustainability.

This announcement is good news for Investing In Our Youth as it confirms second stage funding support for the Pod program. The Pod is building an excellent and credible reputation as the 'go-to' support service for child care agencies in the South West.

The Pod provides services with a health check tool and follow-up mentoring and coaching to assist education and care centres to identify and implement governance, finance, employment, quality standards and record keeping improvements. 'The Pod' project aims to improve centre staff skills, operational viability, and promote opportunities for collaboration.



Creative Discussions on the Design of New Schools.

Representatives from the Departments of Health and Education and other co-opted agencies met recently in Bunbury to collectively discuss plans for new schools. The discussion was hosted by the 'Schools of the Future' network – a local group that advocates for best practice in early childhood health and learning outcomes.

Sample school designs from South Australia were supplied by Department of Education Consultant Ros Marsland. The South Australian primary school site plans accommodate 'wrap around' services at schools that include spaces for child care services, and consulting rooms for community and allied health personnel and other agencies that can support families.

There was collective agreement that there are benefits for families when education and health and other agencies work in partnership. Creating supportive services around schools can make services much more accessible to families.

Also present at the discussion was Bunbury MLA Don Punch who said he was interested in exploring the cost benefits of shared models of service delivery between health, education and community.

Investing In Our Youth CEO Carmen Gregg said that she was inspired by the creativity of the group and their commitment to better communication across agencies.

The Schools of the Future network has been convening quarterly since 2011 with administrative support from Investing In Our Youth.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On October 9 Investing In Our Youth held their Annual General Meeting. The 2016-2017 Annual Report was accepted and a resolution was passed to accept a new Investing In Our Youth constitution.

Investing In Our Youth Chairperson Ian Telfer thanked the board and staff for their hard work over the previous twelve months.



We were immensely pleased to welcome two new members to the Board. These board members bring skills that will add balance to our governing committee.

Marie O'Donaghue brings a wealth of expertise in the early years and community health.

Beth Ferguson will help build our profile through her many contacts in the South West and expertise in marketing and journalism.

Welcome ladies and many thanks for volunteering in this role. In this edition we provide more background information on our new member Maria O'Donaghue and in the next newsletter will feature Beth Ferguson.

The Board would also like to recognise the support of outgoing board member Janelle Leiper. Janelle has been involved with Investing In Our Youth since 2006—an Investing In Our Youth stalwart from the very early days through to 2017. Many thanks for all your hard work Janelle.



Marie O'Donaghue

I'm currently the Community Nurse Manager for the School Health, Immunisation, and the Enuresis Program for WA Country Health Service—South West (WACHS-SW) covering Bunbury, Harvey, and Wellington area.

In 1988 I moved with my young family to Bunbury to work as a registered midwife at Bunbury Regional Hospital. During this time, I met some very passionate community child health nurses; they encouraged me to complete my post graduate Diploma in Child and Maternal Health. In 1992, I joined the Bunbury Community Health team as a high school nurse at Bunbury Senior High School. The rest is history. Over the past 25 years I have worked in a variety of positions in community health including school health both primary and high school, child health, parenting program co-ordinator and Senior Community Nurse.

Working in community health has enabled me to follow my passion of working in partnership with families and young people to foster resilience and self-esteem; to build parents strengths and abilities so they can participate fully in their community. My passion fits well with 'Investing In Our Youth's' aim of promoting the healthy development of children and young people in the South West.

My previous board experience has been as a volunteer founding board member of the South West Women's Health and Information Centre and I have also served as a board member at my children's primary school for many years. I look forward to working in collaboration with the other board members to support the ongoing work of 'investing In Our Youth'.

When I'm not working, I love spending time with my adult children, grandchildren, family, and friends and ticking off as many places and experiences as I can from my bucket list.

PLAYFUL LEARNING



Water fun at Carey Park Child and Parent Centre.



Busy at the Bubs and Grubs session at the Community Garden in Withers.



Playing with coloured spaghetti at the Collie Child and Parent Centre.



HIPPY playgroup at Carey Park Child and Parent Centre.



A BIG thank you to Karim Khan and Ken Ninnette for building a lovely Mia-Mia for the Child and Parent Centre Carey Park. Staff members Deb Woods and Janine Charles say it is loved by all—big and small.



The Child and Parent Centre join in celebrating Children's Week in Collie hosted by the Collie PCYC.

As this is our last newsletter for the year, we would like to wish you all a happy and relaxed holiday season and look forward to seeing you again next year.