

## BE ALCOHOL AWARE

The Department for Communities has approved funding for Investing In Our Youth to utilise the skills of young people to promote responsibility in the use of alcohol.

The Be Alcohol Aware project will encourage schools, Local Drug Action Groups, PCYCs, Youth Advisory Committees and other youth groups across the region to be involved in alcohol awareness initiatives developed for young people by young people.

The project will provide an opportunity for young people to develop their own responses to concerns around harmful alcohol use.

Groups can apply for funds up to \$500 to assist them to develop activities. Applicants will be supplied with government approved information (eg info on standard drinks, party responsibilities, guidelines for alcohol consumption for young people) to ensure that young people have access to the latest approved health information.

The project will utilise the expertise of a steering group with representation from the South West Community Drug Service Team, the SW Population Health Unit, SW Aboriginal Medical Service, ICCWA, Local Drug Action Groups, a youth representative and Youth Development Officers.

The South Western Times has agreed to support the project by reporting on a selection of community awareness activities in

the media and releasing approved alcohol facts and messages.

Investing In Our Youth plans to build local interest in sustaining youth alcohol awareness projects beyond the initial funding period by appealing for local support.

More information and applications for Be Alcohol Aware Community Activity Funds can be found on the Investing In Our Youth website at [www.investinginouryouth.com.au](http://www.investinginouryouth.com.au) from late October onwards.

Supported by



Government of Western Australia  
Department for Communities

BUILDING STRONG, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

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**Acknowledgements**

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## R.I.P.P.A FEST

Friday December 3 is the International Day of People With Disability. The day will be celebrated in Bunbury with a 'RIPPA FESTIVAL'. The theme for the day is Respect, Include, Participate, Promote health, Achieve (RIPPA). The event will take place between 9:30 and 11:30am in Paisley Square in the central business district.

Young people will be invited to demonstrate activities such as cooking, dancing, music and art.

Good practice examples and information on how business, education, health, recreation and the arts have supported the participation of people with disabilities will be a feature of the event.

The South West can provide welcoming and accessible communities for people of all abilities. South West identities were well represented in the 2009 WA Count Me In awards with The Times nominated for an award by employee Susan Wood. Susan, a member of the production team, has Larsen syndrome and is legally blind.

Miss Wood and Martin Dovey, who has high-functioning autism, both gained employment at the Times through Jo Atkinson, employment coordinator at Forrest Personnel.

South Western Times manager Geoff Beard said his team was proud of the achievements Miss Wood and Mr Dovey had made.

“They’ve been extremely valuable acquisitions to the company, they’re both extremely well liked by all the staff and the standard of their work is fantastic,” he said.

RIPPA FEST is sponsored by the City of Bunbury and supported by agencies such as the WA Country Health Service, Disability Services Commission, Enable SW, Investing In Our Youth, Jobs South West and Advocacy South West.

For more information on celebrating the International Day of People With Disability, contact Jodi Larke on tel 9724 0510 or email [jodi.larke@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:jodi.larke@health.wa.gov.au)



## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE – MARK JENNINGS



Investing In Our Youth could not function without ongoing commitment from members of the Board. Mark Jennings is the longest serving member of the Board. He has been involved with the organisation since 2001, and holds the position of Treasurer.

### Tell us about your background?

I was born and bred in Bunbury and have been here all my life (why would I want to leave!). I am an accountant/bookkeeper, and have

worked and been involved in a number of community organisations over time, including Investing In Our Youth. I do enjoy being a part of the community in which I live.

### Why do you support Investing In Our Youth?

I see Investing In Our Youth playing a vital role in ensuring our current and future generations grow up within a good environment. I was fortunate to have had a secure and friendly environment while growing up and want to see other young people be able to access a similar type of environment as I had as a young person.

### What would you like IIOY to achieve in the future?

As Treasurer the issue for me is the financial stability of the organisation. An organisation is only as good as its resources allow and if Investing In Our Youth had to cease operation because of financial limitations then we would be losing a great community asset.

### What are some of your other interests?

Musically I am a guitarist and vocalist and my sporting interests include umpiring hockey. I also am a voracious reader.

## INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH AGM

Investing In Our Youth capped off a successful year with their recent AGM and are pleased to welcome new member of the Board, South West Community Drug Service Team MANAGER NICCI WARREN.

The 2009-2010 Annual Report is now available on the Investing In Our Youth website at:

[www.investinginouryouth.com.au](http://www.investinginouryouth.com.au) .

## SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

### Responses to Raising the Minimum School Leaving Age

The Western Australian Government raised the minimum school leaving age from 15 in 2006, to 16 in January 2007 and to 17 in January 2008.

This legislation does not dictate that students must stay at school, but rather requires them to participate in education, training and employment, or a combination of these options until the end of the year in which they turn 17.

This may be a challenging task and the government has arranged support strategies. Participation Coordinators are employed by the Department of Education and are located in district education offices. The role of **Participation Coordinators** is to support young people who are at risk of not participating in education, training or employment.

Other systems are also in place to support young people. In WA, this includes the School Business Community Partnership Brokers (SBCPB), and Youth Connections (YC) programs.

The role of **School Business Community Partnership Brokers** is to create and improve partnerships between community, business and industry, and schools.

**Youth Connections** staff provide a safety net for young people who have disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from education, and offer flexible case management support and services.

Lifting the school leaving age has generated a need to develop school, community and business partnerships so that a combination of options are available to young

people who do not want to stay on in full time study. Plans are taking shape for a new Trade Training Centre based in Bunbury. Participation Manager Marcus Turner said that the Bunbury Secondary education sector is in the process of applying for funding to establish Trade Training Centre(s) within selected Bunbury Secondary schools.

This is an exciting project hoping to capture in the vicinity of \$15M in funding via the Federal Government Trade Training Centre Program operated by DEEWR. Current work has involved the establishment of a 14 school Consortium which has been considering how to progress this project. Areas that have been targeted include consideration of what training activity will be occurring in the centres, location of the facilities, industry involvement and completion of application processes. If successful, this project will come to fruition in 2012-13. For more information on this project please contact Marcus Turner on Marcus [turner@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:turner@det.wa.edu.au) or tel 0434 609 453.

For further information on School Business Community Partnership Brokers, contact Steve Dix on [steve@gsecd.org.au](mailto:steve@gsecd.org.au), tel 0413 420 902, and for more information on the Youth Connections program, contact Donna Truman on [donnat@rts.net.au](mailto:donnat@rts.net.au), tel 0405 970 939.

## Public Sector Reform

The WA Government is working through a series of recommendations outlined by the Economic Audit Committee in their report 'Putting the Public First: Partnering with the Community and Business to Deliver Outcomes.'

The Economic Audit Committee is a major government initiative across the entire public service. The early

years along with homelessness and mental health have been areas selected to trial a collaborative approach to problem solving.

Recommendations in the report could signal a changing relationship between Government and the community sector.

For example, recommendation 12 includes the aim of negotiating a set of principles with the community sector to facilitate a government and community partnership in delivering human services in order to build trust, foster collaboration, drive social innovation; and ensure sustainable service delivery

The full report is available at <http://www.dtf.wa.gov.au/cms/content.aspx?id=3243>

## VISIT BY WA COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

Investing In Our Youth aim to set up several networking opportunities annually to bring businesses, community and government representatives together. The first networking opportunity will feature guest speaker WA Police Commissioner, Dr Karl O'Callaghan.



The Commissioner will speak about the topic of 'Investing in Bright Futures: supporting young people to reach their full potential.'

After his lunch time speaking engagement, the Commissioner will visit the local Bunbury PCYC which is working towards increasing the

scope of activities offered to young people.

When not engaged in his very busy 'day job' the Commissioner is a member of a local rock band called 'The Filth' and DJ on one of Western Australia's community radio stations where he produces and narrates a regular program on rock music history. His other interests include fishing, scuba diving and building live sound speaker systems.

For more information on Commissioner O'Callaghan's visit to Bunbury on Dec 6 contact Carmen on Tel 9721 6951 or email [iioy@inet.net.au](mailto:iioy@inet.net.au)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Major project support has been received from the Department for Communities for the Be Alcohol Aware project and from the City of Bunbury for RIPPA FEST.

The Investing in Our Youth organisation is very fortunate to have the continued support of Mission Australia through a co-location arrangement.

We appreciate the time and expertise of Be Alcohol Aware steering group members - Shelley O'Brien, Jane Giles, Andrew Rigg, April Byrne, Karen Stack, Chris Daumuller, and Jenny Payet. We are also appreciative of the commitment of support to the Be Alcohol Aware project given by the South Western Times.

This quarter we would like to acknowledge donations received from City of Bunbury Councillors Helen Punch and Juliet Harrop.

We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Lotterywest who have approved funding to assist with an upgrade of Investing In Our Youth computers and software.

