

E-NEWSLETTER

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**Introducing Louise Fischer**

We are very happy to welcome new Regional Youth Mental Health Development Officer Louise Fischer to our staff. Louise has lengthy experience in Social Welfare and Youth Work and is undertaking post graduate training in Holistic Counseling and Psychotherapy.



The Youth Mental Health Development role will have a focus on early intervention and prevention and is the first of its kind in WA.

October

The part time two year position is jointly funded by the South West Development Commission and the Mental Health Commission.

Louise has recently moved to the SW from NSW, and enjoys hiking and rock climbing, cooking, and spending time with her family.

Louise can be contacted on:

[Louise.Fischer@iinet.net.au](mailto:Louise.Fischer@iinet.net.au)

**Schools of the Future Update**

The 'Schools of the Future' working group continues to meet on a quarterly basis. The aim of this group is to explore collaborative partnerships between health, education and the community to improve learning and development outcomes for children aged 0-8 years.

The focus of the next meeting will be on mental health. Investing In Our Youth is funded to support this initiative by the Australian Children's Trust. Contact us for more information if required.



**Investing In Our Youth Promotes Reading**

To celebrate Children's Week, Investing In Our Youth has partnered with many early years advocates across the SW to promote the importance of reading. With the help of a small early years grant from the Department for Communities a range of reading promotion opportunities will take place during Children's Week (October 20 - 28).

2012

Dalyellup youngster Jim Fitzpatrick loves books. His dad knows this because one book is never enough.

Jim always wants to read the same book again or select another one. Jim's favourite book at the moment is Mir McGee and the Blackberry Jam by Pamela Allen.



Jim is only three years old but he is already well on his way to becoming a keen reader.

It is never too early to read aloud to children. Learning to love books and reading begins at home long before children start formal reading instruction. Parents are the child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping children to learn to read.

**To be in the running to win a complimentary pack of children's books, send your contact details on the back of an envelope by October 28 to:**

Investing In Our Youth

PO Box 6103

BUNBURY SOUTH WA 6231

## Introducing HANDS UP 4 KIDS

Investing In Our Youth is supporting a new volunteer reading program titled HANDS UP 4 KIDS. (HU4K).

Community volunteers are recruited to listen to young children read aloud during school hours. The program has begun at Maiden's Park Primary and volunteers are currently being recruited for Parkfield, Australind and Kingston Primary Schools.

School teachers report that they can immediately notice the difference that brief periods of oral reading can make – increasing children's reading levels, fluency and enthusiasm for reading.

Children look forward to reading to the school volunteer and volunteers also report that it is a very rewarding experience.

We request your assistance in promoting this opportunity to volunteers so that we can help support the further development of HANDS UP 4 KIDS. Volunteer recruitment will also be promoted by the project steering group and key project partners: the Great Southern Employment Development Committee; the Rotary Club of Bunbury Leschenault; and participating schools.

To contact the HU4K volunteer coordinator please telephone or email Jan Akaczonok on mob 0499 240 371 or [handsup4kids@gmail.com](mailto:handsup4kids@gmail.com)

## The Adventure Is Yours in Venturer Scouts

Believe it or not there are some vacancies available for young people in local Scout Troops. Scouts provide a fantastic opportunity for young people to safely test their limits and learn great skills. The following information was provided by Scout Leader Viv Campbell.

Are you 13-15 and looking for a do-it-yourself mix of adventure, fun, personal development and friendship? **You** may like to go on a canoe expedition, learn to scuba-dive or fly a glider; perhaps white water kayaking or mountain biking is more your style. Whatever you want to do, Venturers can make it happen.

Venturers is not all about the outdoors, after all, every expedition requires planning and preparation. You will also be involved in a well-designed program to develop confidence, independence

and teamwork skills. The adult Leaders provide advice and guidance but you decide what to do. Venturers are serious about having a great time and getting the most they can out of life. You need no experience whatsoever to become a Venturer Scout today.

Call your local group now to get started on 0404 5955 49. There are age appropriate activities in Scouting for girls and boys from 6 to young men and women aged 26 years. Check this link for more information: [www.careyparkscouts.org.au](http://www.careyparkscouts.org.au)



## Acknowledgements

This quarter we would like to send a big thank you to Lee Jegorow from Workwise and Wexford Recruitment Solutions for taking the time to give us some valuable pro bono advice regarding recruitment matters.



Finally, we very much appreciate the time and expertise offered by Wayne Clarke of Bunbury On-Site Computer Services regarding his complimentary visit to advice on our future office equipment needs.

## DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

### Child and Parent Centre at Carey Park Primary School

Investing In Our Youth (IIOY) has successfully tendered to support the development of the proposed new Child and Parent Centre at Carey Park Primary School.

This will involve IIOY employing and supporting a 'Community Coordinator' to work with the school principal and an advisory committee to build on the good work that Carey Park Primary has already initiated in the early years (0-8 age group).

The Community Coordinator will provide an interface between schools and service providers. Among other things, the role will involve brokering partnerships and collating data and project evaluation information.

The role will be supported by alliances that have been formed with several organisations including Curtin University.

The key outcomes of the role will be:

Local community engagement by children and their families in programs and services;

Families with young children access a range of high quality early learning, parenting, health and well-being programs and services at and through the Child and Parent Centre;

Effective partnerships with the school, community, and industry stakeholders are built and maintained to ensure that the centre is well supported and opportunities for collaboration are developed;

Day to day support for personnel using and/or employed at the centre, and the effective scheduling of programs and services;

Effective engagement and working relationship with the school principal and the Local Advisory Committee; and

Assist the State with the collation of data to report on progress towards performance indicators.



## Regulation for Not-for profits

The not-for-profit (NFP) sector makes a significant contribution to both the Australian economy and the community. The NFP sector currently comprises around 600,000 entities and accounts for nearly 5 per cent of GDP, growing at around 8 per cent per year.

### **A new federal Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is currently being established to regulate charities and not-for-profit entities.**

Starting July 2013 all not-for-profit (NFP) organisations will register with the ACNC. All will provide an annual information statement. Medium to large organisations will also provide an annual financial report. Charities will start lodging these statements from 1 July 2013 for the 2012-2013 year.

Charities will provide information on how they have pursued their main purpose in the last 12 months, and who currently benefits from the charity's activities. Medium and large charities will also be asked to provide information on how they will pursue their main purpose in the next 12 months.

The ACNC portal will contain financial and governance information on individual charities to assist donors, grant-makers, researchers and interested community members learn more about charities from a trustworthy source.

The public information portal will be accessible via the website by July 2013. The public will be able to search the portal for details about charities including:

- ✚ individual charities governance structures, purposes, activities, contact details and annual reporting information;
- ✚ search for details on the activities of a particular charity; and
- ✚ search for details on a range of similar charities and their collective impact.

## Spotlight on the Middle Years (9-14)

The Department for Communities is now seen as a lead agency in developing strategies to support children in the middle years (ages 9-14).

The Department intends to take responsibility for the promotion and review of research, initiatives and activities across the middle years.

A middle years' email network has been created to share information relating to the middle years such as relevant research and local events. Individuals or organisations interested in joining the Middle Years Email Network should email [middle.years@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:middle.years@communities.wa.gov.au)

An early initiative of the Department will be to promote greater parental and public understanding of new technology, social networking and its use and impact on young people.

An expert on the subject of cyber bullying, Kate Hadwen, will visit the SW next month to provide an evening information session for parents and community members.

Kate Hadwen is a Senior Research Fellow with the ECU Child Health Promotion Research Centre.



Kate has taught and held senior leadership roles in Government, Catholic and Independent schools in three states of Australia. She was previously the National Project Manager and curriculum writer for a resilience building, school, family and community based program.

Kate directs the Cyber Friendly Families Project, the Cyber Friendly Schools Project, the Cyber Strong

Schools Project, and the Boarding the Future Project and previously sat on the West Australian College of Teaching's Legal Services Inquiry Committee. Kate is mother to three teenagers; the focus of her work (other than running around after her children) is on translating research findings on cyber bullying and cyber safety into materials which support families, students, schools and the broader community.

**This topic is timely given that recent findings show that bullying and emotional abuse is rated as a priority concern by young people in the South West Region.**

The seminar will take place on the evening of November 28 and will be hosted by Kingston Primary School. Contact [iioy@inet.net.au](mailto:iioy@inet.net.au) for more information.

### Community Child Health Initiative

In the 2012 State Budget the Government provided additional funding of \$58.5 million state-wide, over 4 years to improve access to community child health services.

Of the \$58.5 million, Child and Adolescent Community Health (CACH) has been allocated \$38.4 million and Country Health Services (CHS) \$20.1 million.

Although the funding has been split between the metropolitan and country areas, CACH and CHS are working closely together to implement the funding allocation.

Two parallel strategies are being used to improve access to community child health services.

Firstly, a key element of the funding is a commitment to partnering with the community services sector (CSS) to deliver community child health services. The procurement process is underway.

Secondly, a proportion of the new funding has come direct to the Department of Health to increase the number of child health nurses.

The process for contracting non-government organisations will initially take the form of a 12 month grant agreement, followed by a full tender process.

For more information regarding this initiative contact Jo Moore on email [Jo.Moore@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Moore@health.wa.gov.au) or phone 9781 2326.