

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

Envoy



Investing In Our Youth Newsletter

October 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 organisation, business, government and the wider community generate ideas and facilitate projects, service 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

Investing In Our Youth has just completed another busy quarter. Big news for this period involves receiving the keys to the Child and Parent Centre Collie Valley.

We are very lucky to have access to a wonderful purpose built building for parents and young children in Collie (see photos at right).

The Centre is open and if you are interested in having an introduction to the Centre facilities, please contact Community Coordinator Carole English on Tel 9734 3364.

In brief, the Centre is designed to provide support and services to families with children up to eight years of age. Our aim is to work hand in hand with parents to provide the highest quality early years programs and services



for their young children.

Free programs have already been scheduled at the Centre and Collie parents are welcome to enquire about activities or just drop in and say hello. The Centre is open to the public Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

Parents may like to find out about a phone app that will inform them of Centre programs, and

parent workshops.

You will find the entrance to the Child and Parent Centre off Cable St, to the rear of Wilson Park Primary School.

Child and Parent Centres are a State Government initiative. The Child and Parent Centre – Collie Valley is run by Investing In Our Youth in partnership with Wilson Park Primary School.

Again, a big thank you to all the volunteers, project advisory groups, and sponsors who support Investing In Our Youth in promoting the healthy development of children and young people in the South West Region.



New HIPPY Program for Bunbury and Collie

A pioneering early learning program which prepares four and five year old children for school will be delivered in Bunbury and Collie in 2016 – and will focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) supports parents and carers to be their child's first teacher.

Investing In Our Youth is the organisation chosen to deliver the service in Collie and Bunbury apparently because of the organisation's connection to the community and proven ability to run early

learning programs and support families.

The Brotherhood of St Laurence started HIPPY in Australia 15 years ago and is responsible for supporting the community organisations that operate it across Australia.

The HIPPY program is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Social Services. For more information see www.hippyaustralia.org.au.

Organisational Development

Another successful year was marked by Investing In Our Youth at our recent Annual General Meeting.

We would once again like to acknowledge the dedication of our volunteer board members and their commitment to support the organisation. Thanks go to Chair Ian Telfer (CEO WAPRES), Deputy Nicci Warren (Regional Manager SW—St John Ambulance WA), Mark Jennings (Treasurer) Janelle Leiper (Public Health), Alan Kidd (Department of Education), Lisa Glover (South West Community Alcohol and Drug Service), June Foulds (Community Consultant), and Karen Collins (Playgroup WA).

At the AGM we were given an overview of a new Investing In Our Youth intranet that will hold a comprehensive range of organisational policies and procedures.

Many thanks to Lotterywest for giving us the opportunity to work with HR consultants ProcessWorx to complete this important developmental milestone for the organisation.

We are also currently in the process of renewing our Investing In Our Youth strategic plan. Still current is our key mission – to promote the healthy development of children and young people in the South West region—and the following strategies:

Facilitate opportunities for children, young people and their families to participate fully in our community

Advocate for and represent the interests of children and young people in the South West region

Address priorities identified by key stakeholders with a focus on prevention and early intervention

Plan for sustainability of the organisation



Position Vacant Collie

Plans are afoot to employ our third staff member for the Child and Parent Centre Collie Valley.

The role will be part time and titled 'Family Liaison Worker'. The purpose of the Family Liaison Worker role is to build family capacity by linking families and carers to appropriate professional support using partnerships, strengths-based and family-centred approaches.

A recruitment process is planned to take place over the next six weeks. For more information and to access the position description details, contact Carmen on email Carmen.Gregg@investinginouryouth.com.au

More details coming soon to our website www.investinginouryouth.com.au

New funding

The SWDC have provided two grants for the Investing In Our Youth POD team to provide ongoing support to the management committee of the Collie Early Education Centre to assist with transitioning from an existing building to new premises that are nearing completion in Collie.

This involves practical operational assistance and guidance on regulatory compliance and small business requirements.

The second grant will be used to focus on developing a professional community of early childhood educators employed in the 70 education and care services that currently operate across the SW region. It is envisaged a regular number of skill building and

exchange sessions will be facilitated over 2016 in four identified locations in the region.

These approaches link back to issues identified in the SWDC South West Regional Blueprint:-

- Ensure the not-for-profit and community sector is engaged in regional development and has the capacity to grow and develop services with population increase
- Childcare and early education services will need to meet emerging demand, especially in those areas with a high concentration of young families reflecting changing patterns of work.