

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

Envoy



Investing In Our Youth Newsletter

April 2014

Welcome

What is coming up for Investing In Our Youth this year?

- Consolidation of new projects— the Child and Parent Centres at Carey Park and Collie
- The development of a Regional Children's Services Plan
- Continuation of innovative mental health early intervention and prevention strategies through the Regional Youth Mental Health role
- Striving to provide optimal support to staff and our Board so they can effectively carry out their work
- Development of new marketing tools

All at Investing In Our Youth look forward to a busy and productive year and thank you for your continued interest and support.

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Child and Parent Centre Carey Park



Our photo shows that the Child and Parent Centre building at Carey Park Primary School is on track and close to completion.

This is great cause for celebration following a significant time line that began in December 2010 with an announcement by the State Government that investment would be made in a range of children and family services located on public school sites.

In March 2012, Carey Park Primary School was announced as the site of one of the first new Child and Parent Centres to be established in the State.

Later that year Investing In Our Youth were selected as the non-government

organisation that would support the delivery of integrated programs and services through the Centre.

Community Coordinator Annette Owen was employed in January 2013 and has been developing plans for the Centre with the assistance of a dedicated Local Advisory Committee.

Now we are finally nearing opening time thanks to the support of Cary Park, Djidi Djidi and Maiden's Park schools, and agencies and the community.

A proposed community open day is planned for the 6th of August. Plans include a 'Lets Play' event at the Centre in Carey Park school grounds from

9:00am till 11:30am.

An expression of interest for services interested in providing opportunities for interactive play will soon be circulated by the organising committee.

There will be free give-aways and morning tea will be provided.

Come and help us celebrate this milestone.

For additional information, contact Annette Owen on Annette.Owen@investinginouryouth.com.au

Introducing new staff member—Sandra Robertson



Investing In Our Youth are pleased to welcome new employee Sandra Robertson into the role of Community Coordinator for the Collie Valley Child and Parent Centre at Wilson Park.

Sandra loves challenges and is passionate about the welfare of young children. She has lived in Collie for most of her life and has an incredible knowledge of the Collie community.

Sandra's work history will equip her well to identify areas of community need and work with local services to coordinate programs and activities for families with young children.

Sandra has a strong background in the early years gained through her work as a qualified midwife and child health nurse.

In the early stages of the project, Sandra will be out and about collecting information that will help the planning process and identify partnership opportunities.

To connect to Sandra, email

Sandra.Robertson@investinginouryouth.com.au

The MindUP Revolution

MindUP training delivered recently in Bunbury through a partnership between Investing In Our Youth and the Benevolent Society, has proven to be a great success.

Training participants learned how to give children and young people the skills to understand and regulate their emotions.

Child and Youth Mental Health Development Officer Louise Fischer has found that MindUP training is already making a difference locally.

Schools where MindUP has been implemented report that students are calmer and ready to learn.

“What is exciting about this, is that children can identify when they feel threatened or stressed, and choose to clam themselves, as opposed to what they previously would have done—react while under stress,” said Louise.

The programs have been used in schools across the USA and Canada with great success. MindUP strategies can also be applied outside the classroom for adults and young people in a variety of settings.

Local schools Djidi Djidi and Maiden's Park are the first in Australia to adopt a 'whole of school' approach to MindUP .

MindUP training is an initiative of the Child and Parent Centre—Carey Park.

For further information, contact Louise Fischer on email

Louise.Fischer@investinginouryouth.com.au

“MindUp teaches social and emotional learning skills and uses the latest information about the brain to dramatically improve behaviour and learning for all students”



Bridges Out of Poverty—calls for assistance

Investing In Our Youth is seeking support from potential sponsors to assist in bringing 'Bridges Out of Poverty' training to the South West.

Bridges Out of Poverty is a two day workshop that provides strategies and tools for working more effectively with families impacted by poverty.

The workshop is designed for community organisations, health care providers, educators, counsellors, law enforcement and social services providers.

This training has been requested locally and

comes highly recommended. The Bridges Out of Poverty workshop can take a lot of the stress out of managing caseloads.

More information on the Bridges Out of Poverty workshop can be found on the Social Solutions website at Socialsolutions.com.au.

If you are interested in attending or supporting this workshop please connect with Carmen on email:

Carmen.Gregg@investinginyouth.com.au.

Marketing update

Investing In Our Youth are very excited to report that the organisation is close to launching a new website, banners, flags, business cards, and signage!

We have been assisted through this process by Beth Ferguson of Main Event media, supported by Cathy Smith of CATCO, and Gemma Wilson of GemCreate.

Early discussions involved a review of the 'Investing In Our Youth' name but it was decided that the history and credibility that accompanied that brand was too important to leave behind.

Hopefully our new marketing tools will reflect that we are about investing in our youth but also:

- Nurturing our children
- Bringing together communities, and
- Connecting with families

This is a good time to notify all our colleagues and supporters that we will be also moving to a new email address

@investinginyouth.com.au.

Please change the Executive Officer email to Carmen.Gregg@investinginyouth.com.au.

Investing In Our Youth—out and about

On February 7, Maiden's Park Primary school threw open their doors to celebrate the opening of their new Early Childhood building with an open day offering free entertainment, activities, information and lunch.

Child and Parent Centre Coordinator Annette Owen said that the day provided an opportunity for parents to see what was on offer in the community and at the

School. There was a good response from representatives from the early years, offering information on child and family friendly activities and a visit from the spectacular bubble man.

Picture, right, are Wendy Doyle and Sandra Robertson promoting the benefits of the Triple P program.



Public Forum on Deliberate Self Harm

A FREE public forum titled 'Responding to Deliberate Self Harm' will be held between 10 am and 12 noon on Thursday June 26 at the Edith Cowan University SW Campus (Bunbury). Please RSVP to Neal Ruane on email neal.ruane@health.wa.gov.au.