

Investing In Our Youth, Inc

Annual Report

2004 - 2005

Investing In Our Youth, Inc is currently sponsored by the following organisations



Department for
Community Development

Shire of Harvey



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Implementation of the Community Action Plan -	3
Whole of Community	3
0 – 4 years	4
5 - 11 Years	4
12 – 17 Years.....	5
Health and Social Service Professionals.....	6
Organisational Milestones	6
Acknowledgements	7

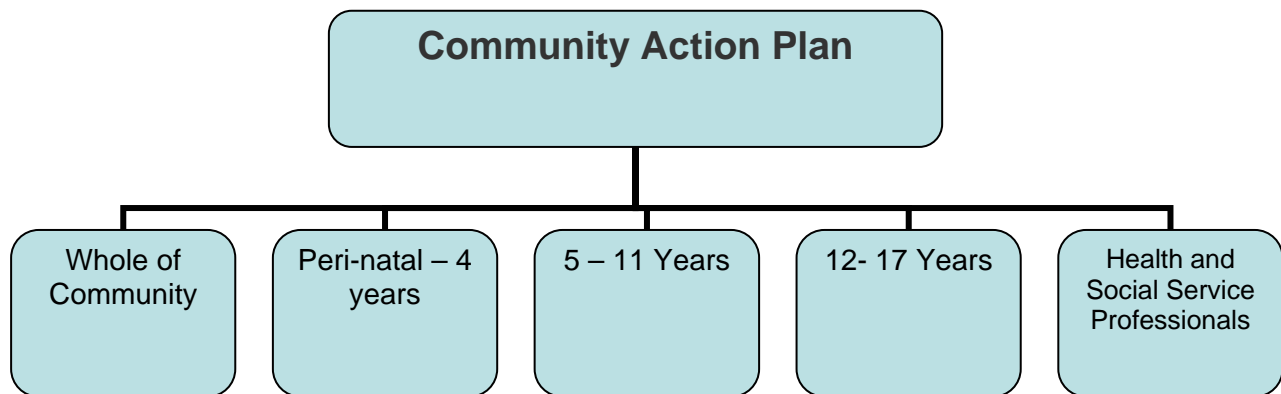
[Appendix Financial Report](#)



Implementation of the Community Action Plan -

Introduction

This Annual Report is set out according to the Community Action Plan structure. This structure reminds us that addressing risk and protective factors requires action and strategies across multiple sites and settings such as health, education, community services, families, and communities. This section sets out the action taken over the last 12 months to progress implementation of the recommended programs and strategies included in the Community Action Plan endorsed by members in 2003 & 2004. Many of the activities work across more than one age group or setting.



Priority over the year has been given to opportunities and partnerships that address the areas listed below. These were identified as priorities for action by Investing In Our Youth, Inc members at the Planning Forum held in May 2004:

- Research Opportunities
- Participation at all levels
- Funding
- Early Years Perinatal – 4 Years

Whole of Community

Website Redevelopment was undertaken this year with the assistance of a Lotterywest grant. The website was launched in September and has been very successful. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Since the launch a Children's page, a Community Links page and other resources for young people have been added. This was in response to demand inquiring about linking to the website. Plans are underway to offer linking opportunities to local family centres across the region for the Children's page. Research Resources are available through the site and all minutes, meeting times and workshops are posted on the site.

Launch of the Social Development Strategies Toolkit at Eaton Recreation Centre saw 40 people attend with great support from the four shires Dardanup, Capel, Harvey and the City of Bunbury. Then Mayor John Castrilli officially launched the resource which has since been reprinted 3 times. Investing In Our Youth, Inc has distributed 123 hard copies and 50 CD copies across the local community on behalf of the Partnership that made the Toolkit possible. The Social Development Strategies Toolkit is aimed at clubs and organisations that work with young people and is available to the whole community at no cost. Feedback



indicates that the Toolkit has been useful in a range of settings including aged care.

Regular columns in the Bunbury Mail 'Connecting with Young People' and 'Early Years' served to raise the profile of Investing In Our Youth through the use of our newly adopted 'Prevention through Collaboration' logo. The columns served to support our participating member agencies and organizations as well as increasing recognition of Investing In Our Youth in the community. The opportunity was brokered by Denise Gibb in her role as Youth Resources Liaison Officer who acts as an editorial point between contributors and the paper.

Capacity Building is a key activity of the organization.

- Executive Officer on behalf of Investing In Our Youth contributed to City Vision, SWAHS Community Health Forum, Young Mum's review of Services at SWAHS, Army Reserve Recruitment strategy evening, Early Years consultation and the SWAP network meeting.
- Investing In Our Youth hosted a Social Work Students in 2004 and 2005
- Investing In Our Youth contributed part of the required funding to enable the Coordinator of the Linking Education And Families program to attend Train the Trainer Family Partnership Training thus increasing the number of trainers in the area in the discipline of education.
- Research Partnership with ECU Social Work program to plan for a Social Capital Audit in each Local Government. This increases the research capacity of students in the social work program and provides a resource for Local Government. Funding will be sought by Investing In Our Youth on behalf to the 4 shires to undertake the research in 2006.

0 – 4 years

The Executive Officer has attended the Early Years Network since its inception in November 2004. Since February 2005 Investing In Our Youth has provided email distribution of minutes, agendas and other information the Bunbury Early Years Network with no charge.

Young Mum's Steering Group is a group of interested service providers who came together during the review of SWAHS services to Young Mum's in 2004 to further the interests of this indicated group in the community. Investing In Our Youth has been involved through the services of the Social Work student in supporting the process and in contributing to the grant submission for a Young Mum's program at Milligan House, now known as Head, Heart and Hand program. Investing In Our Youth is the designated evaluator of the Head Heart and Hand Program which will be finalized in December 2005. This is a fee for service arrangement.

The Bunbury Mail column mentioned above, brokered by Denise Gibb was organized for the assistance of the Early Years in order to respond to a priority to disseminate magazine style messages about good parenting and child development to new parents.

5 - 11 Years

An opportunity to participate in the nation wide validation trial of the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) arose in March 2004. This is an outcome measure of child development of five year olds the AEDI is aimed at the whole community. Investing In Our Youth facilitated a partnership between ourselves, Shires of Dardanup, Harvey, Capel, Department of Education and Training, Department for Community Development and South West Area Health to provide funds for teacher relief so schools across the Bunbury District (excluding Collie who participated parallel to this project). Results from the AEDI will be available for dissemination early in 2006. The intention is to work with Shires to facilitate a planning process in the local community to address the findings of the AEDI.



Service Pathways project is intended to work with service providers who work with families who have a history of substance use, a key risk factor. The project will identify the services available, gaps that require attention and facilitate collaboration to address this particular risk factor. The project is also working with Shires on the Crime Prevention planning. Permission has been obtained from the creators of Aussie Optimism to develop the decision making model for use in social service setting to work with children in this age group and in the age group 12-17 years. Beverley Sykes, the Service Pathways project officer, will undertake the training for Aussie Optimism in early 2006 which will increase the number of trainers in this region.

Investing In Our Youth brokered a meeting between Mission Australia and Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice to consider a program to address the needs of children from families with alcohol issues. The partnership successfully sourced funds from the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF) for a two year program.

12 – 17 Years

Investing In Our Youth conducted two pieces of research: Adult perceptions of Young people and a Media content analysis of local newsprint and television news. The Adult Perception survey was intended to find out what adults think the main issues are for young people and where they get their information. The media content analysis was designed to examine young people's assumptions that the media depicts them entirely negatively. These have been made available to all members and are downloadable from www.investinginouryouth.com.au A second media content analysis is scheduled for November 2005 as a post evaluation tool. This research formed the basis for discussions with local media outlets on the depiction of children within families by the Youth Resources Liaison Officer.

Workshops on implementing the Social Development Strategies Toolkit have been developed. Aimed at clubs and organisations these are available on request. The workshops include one on *evaluation* and another on **working with the media** to promote positive images of young people.

Two projects have been developed by the Youth Resources Liaison Officer that work on increasing positive images of young people. Firstly, a photographic competition with the theme of Young People and their Families and a media project with Shire of Dardanup with young people called *What's your Anti-drug*, a project inviting young people to name what activities they do that makes them feel good. Funding is still being sourced for these projects.

Investing In Our Youth, Inc was consulted as part of the Youth Advantage Strategy at Bunbury District Education Officer. Investing In Our Youth has been represented at the meetings by Michael King, Community Board Executive Group member.

The Executive Officer represents the Investing In Our Youth membership on the Escape Youth Centre Committee of Management. Investing In Our Youth provided research resources for the National Community Crime Prevention grant that will see programs implemented in Australind, Brunswick Junction, Harvey and Yarloop for 8-11 year olds as well as 12-17 year olds.

A youth activities page is included in the Website and connects to all four shire websites and the Department of Sport and Recreation site which has a database of available leisure sites and activities. Other links have been included since September including Turning Point Zone (rotary sponsored project). Links look set to increase as the website becomes established.

Executive Officer represents Investing In Our Youth at the South West Youth Coordinating Network and the Bunbury Interagency Youth Network.

A partnership between South West Parenting Service, Bunbury Police and Investing In Our Youth resulted in the creation of the '25 ways to have fun with your teenager' D/L. Denise Gibb received a commendation for the initiative from the Federal Department of Health and Ageing, the body responsible for social marketing the National Drug Strategy materials.



The D/L is being distributed together with National Drug strategy pamphlets from the

following points:

- Bunbury Crime Prevention Officer
- Shires of Harvey, Capel, Dardanup, and the City of Bunbury
- South West Parenting Service
- Most High schools in the region

Health and Social Service Professionals

Clearinghouse for local research, expertise and contacts has become a core activity of the Executive Officer over the last 12 months. These activities range from passing through information via email to lengthier consultations for specific resources. Often these consultations are on ideas for programs, providing evaluation pro-formas and research to support funding proposals. Clearinghouse duties have included facilitating access to members of Investing In Our Youth for consultation purposes. The demand has increased from approximately 4-5 per month to 4-5 per week since June 2005, not including email. List of consults are included in the monthly call sheets of the Executive Officer.

Investing In Our Youth hosted two workshops for workers who deal with families and children this year. The workshops focused on prevention in practice and provided the impetus for the Service Pathways project officer to work on identifying appropriate evidence based decision making tools that would work across multiple social service settings. The project is now in the process of interviewing participants with examples of tools that may be of use to practitioners.

A Key Leaders Breakfast Seminar was organised for 25th August with two speakers, David Wray from the Office of Crime Prevention and Ian Harvey South Bunbury Primary School Principal. The theme of the morning was partnerships and prevention. 26 leaders from across the community, business, government, non-government and local government sectors attended.

Presentations on Investing In Our Youth, Inc have been given to South West Development Commission, Busselton-Vasse Regional Cabinet, Boyanup Neighborhood Watch, Council members of the Shire of Dardanup, South West Agency Profile group, Edith Cowan University students, Disability Services Commission (Bunbury), and Department of Sport and Recreation.

Presentations on the AEDI project and Investing In Our Youth, Inc have been given to the Bunbury Early Years Network, the Principals meeting – Department for Education and Training, Primary Health Team, SWAHS, K-3 Early Childhood Teachers Network and the Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice.

The Executive Officer represents Investing In Our Youth, Inc on the Consumer Reference group for the Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice.

Organisational Milestones

Investing In Our Youth, Inc started as a project and has become an organisation. While facilitation of the Community Action Plan remains the core business of the organisation this year has seen the need to undertake the following activities in order to grow the organisational infrastructure to support the core business over the long term. Listed below is a sample of the key organisational milestones this year:

- Investing In Our Youth, Inc adopts the 'Prevention through Collaboration' Logo. Creation of letterheads, banners, the Website move forward.
- The Community Board Executive Group agree to set up MYOB. Dan Hickert, a book-keeper is engaged Dan Hickert to oversee the financial arrangements of the organisation.



- Policy and procedures are set in place including risk management strategies, conflict of interest policies and the adoption of the SACS award setting out terms of employment for any employees of the organisation.
- An office refit is undertaken to accommodate an increase in part-time staff. This included reworking the Local Area Network and IT functions to include new computers. A Memorandum of Understanding is in process for the use of the building.
- Administration procedures became important as the activities of the project increase. These are now well in place and documented for future reference.
- A report for all past and present members of Investing In Our Youth, Inc was written to report on the outcomes of the project to date. The report is called *Prevention in Greater Bunbury – Reflecting Back, Looking Forward* and was endorsed by members at the August meeting. 105 of the reports have been distributed.
- Investing In Our Youth, Inc Community Board Executive Group members held a strategic planning meeting in July to consider sustainability models for the organisation. The outcome of the meeting was presented to the August Community Board by Mark Jennings. A briefing paper was subsequently distributed to Key Leaders and Community Board members for comment as recommended by the members at the August meeting. The issue has since become an ongoing discussion item at Community Board Executive meetings since July 2005 with funding being sought from a variety of sources.
- Current grant funding for implementation of the Action Plan and the Executive Officer will cease from February 2006, however the organisation has a committee of management to continue operations, albeit in a reduced fashion.

Acknowledgements

Investing In Our Youth, Inc depends heavily on the support of its members and their willingness to promote the project in the community, within their organisations and to each other. Thank you to all the people who have been willing to offer their support and assistance throughout this year. We are fortunate in our friends indeed.

On behalf of the wider membership of Investing In Our Youth a heartfelt thank you, must go to the Community Board Executive Group Members for their dedication and commitment over the year, not least the stoicism with which they faced two meetings per month! For her dedicated line management and excellent support to the Executive Officer a special acknowledgement to the Chair Raquel Willis.

2004-2005 Community Board Executive Group



Raquel currently works with the South West Population Health Unit as the Other Drug Program Coordinator. In her role Raquel focuses on the prevention of alcohol and tobacco related problems in the younger population. Raquel brings with her extensive research, evaluation, planning and capacity building expertise.

Kym brings to Investing In Our Youth direct experience working with young people. Previously, Kym has held positions such as the co-ordinator for a Youth Council and other youth committees, and coaching junior sports. Kym herself has been the recipient of a 'Young Citizen of the Year' award (1999). Kym is the Community



Jennifer was the Public Relations Consultant for the Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice and has since become the Programs Manager for the Division. Jennifer brings to Investing In Our Youth a wealth of knowledge with respect to liaising with local community organisations and health professionals.

Mark represents the young people of the Catholic Church. Mark brings to Investing In Our Youth a wealth of experience facilitating programs and activities targeted at young people with a Christian ethos.



Michael has worked in the Local Government sector where he has gained significant knowledge and experience in the development of strategic youth services throughout the localities of Mandurah and Bunbury. Michael's main area of interest lays in the development and implementation of programs that permit and help 'at risk' young people identify and then achieve their dreams.

Mike is the Manager of South West District, Department for Community Development. His previous management experience extends to remote regions like the Kimberley, Goldfields and Wheatbelt, and rural and region centres throughout the South West. Mike brings to Investing In Our Youth a wealth of practical and strategic social and community development expertise.

