



# INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

## **ANNUAL REPORT** July 2006 – June 2007

The vision of **Investing In Our Youth** is to work towards a healthy and safe community environment for all young people to develop their full potential by building strong relationships and valued participation within our communities.



# INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The 2006-07 year has been an especially busy one for Investing In Our Youth (IIOY). During this time we have all worked hard to consolidate the organisation's position in our community.

I would like to start this report by thanking my fellow Steering Group members for their enthusiastic involvement and service to the organisation. I would particularly like to thank Carmen and Robyn for their hard work and professionalism, and for making my job as chair a relatively easy task. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless voluntary efforts of our treasurer, Mark Jennings.

Thanks must also go to the Bunbury District Education Office for their ongoing support through the provision of office space and amenities for IIOY at the South Bunbury Primary School.

This year has seen IIOY participating in a number of research and evaluation projects. In the main these have been undertaken in partnership with those from the child and youth service sector of this region. As well as being implicitly important (these projects have the potential to greatly improve outcomes for children and young people in the South West) participating in these projects has helped IIOY secure operating funds to help us continue the work of supporting collaborative prevention initiatives.

IIOY has been participating in such projects as "headspace".



This involves working with a broad consortium of local service providers who are planning a submission that will provide resources to encourage young people with mental health concerns in the South West to seek help earlier. The project also intends to provide a coordinated approach for the treatment and support of young people with mental ill-health and associated substance use issues.

IIOY is also collaborating with the Department of Education and Training to implement the "Linking Education and Families" program. This program will help connect families to appropriate early intervention services. It will also work with families and their children in their homes and communities to ensure children have a smooth transition to school.

In addition, Carmen (representing IIOY) has been an active participant in SWCYN network meetings and at meetings that have been held about the concerns related to transport in this region. This presence is vital, not just for the profile of IIOY, but also so that child and youth perspectives are represented. Also, and again through Carmen, IIOY has been the instigator for establishing a "South West Research Network". The potential for research collaboration is an exciting prospect and has already enabled input by research leaders about issues vital to the children and youth of the south west (e.g., Associate Professor Sven Silburn talked to this group about suicide prevention).

There is no doubt that there will be even greater challenges, but also exciting developments in the future for IIOY. Together with all those involved, I look forward to embracing these.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Rhonda Oliver  
*Chair*  
IIOY

■ *Chairperson - Professor Rhonda Oliver*

Investing In Our Youth is a not for profit organisation that advocates for children and young people by working across all sectors of the community to promote prevention through collaboration.

Investing In Our Youth grew from a community seminar in 1999 that led to the formation of an 'Investing in Bunbury's Youth' steering committee. The founding members aligned with a model of prevention and community mobilisation called 'Communities That Care'. Communities That Care (CTC) was developed in the USA by Professor J. David Hawkins and Professor Richard F. Catalano, at the University of Washington, Seattle. The model identifies and addresses priority areas to promote healthy development before young people become involved in problem behaviours.

Mirroring the CTC example, Investing In Our Youth's (IIOY) key objective is to support evidence based initiatives that promote the healthy development of children and young people in the South West Region.

As an inter-mediatory agency, IIOY has been able to connect research to communities, provide tools to focus attention on how children and young people are doing, and assist communities to plan and monitor prevention interventions. Examples of local projects facilitated by IIOY include conducting a comprehensive survey of over 1,000 high school students (2001) and implementing the Australian Early Development Index (2005) throughout local primary schools.

## CONTACT DETAILS

### Investing In Our Youth

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Investing In Our Youth is located off Queen Street at the South Bunbury Primary School.

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



# HIGHLIGHTS 2006/2007

2006 was an important year for Investing In Our Youth. A community planning day provided information that prompted a review of IIOY objectives; several significant projects were completed; and, a funding submission to the National Community Crime Prevention Program was approved.

## COMMUNITY PLANNING DAY

Over 30 community members, representing various government and non-government agencies, gathered to review IIOY strategic directions in October, 2006. The meeting was facilitated by Ms Deanna Giumelli, Senior Development Officer for the Office of Children and Youth.

Some of the more significant outcomes from this meeting included recommendations to extend Investing In Our Youth's geographical coverage, and, to extend the focus of Investing In Our Youth to include both children and young people (not youth only).

## INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH OBJECTIVES

To review, expand and maintain community wide prevention planning to support the communities of the South West to promote the positive development of children and young people.

To promote support and facilitate community wide collaboration in relation to issues of healthy development for children and youth.

To promote interventions and procedures which are evidence based, collaborative, inclusive, proactive, and community specific.

To facilitate the dissemination of ideas about issues from children and young people and other client groups of the community.

Revised Investing In Our Youth Objectives now reflect those recommendations.

Other significant achievements for the 2006/2007 financial year include:

- Launch of the Australian Early Development Index data
- Completion of the Service Pathways Project
- Administration of the Linking Education and Families (LEAF) program
- Evaluation of the Family Alcohol Community Education (FACE) program
- Development of the *headspace* funding submission
- Report on sustainability options for the Baby Beats program
- Formation of the South West Research Network

## AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT INDEX DATA LAUNCH

On September 19, 2006, Colleen Carlon launched the findings of the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) data on behalf of Investing In Our Youth. The launch was well attended with over 30 participants representing a cross section of departments and organisations.

The AEDI is a population measure of young children's development based on a teacher-completed checklist. The AEDI provides community members and families with the opportunity to understand the health and development of local children, and can facilitate increased collaboration between schools, early childhood services, and local agencies supporting children and families. The five developmental domains that are measured are:

- **physical health and wellbeing**
- **social competence**
- **emotional maturity**
- **language and cognitive skills**
- **communication skills and general knowledge**

Investing In Our Youth was responsible for facilitating the data collection process in schools in the Greater Bunbury Region and Donnybrook, completing the data collection phase in October 2005.

An evaluation of the launch showed that the great majority of participants found the launch worthwhile, well presented and relevant. Sample comments included:

- ***I think the next action needs to be generated at the local areas. I can see some immediate applications in my work. Thank you.***
- ***Thank you for the opportunity to get up to speed with the AEDI data. Very well presented and at a level that even I could understand!***

- ***A fantastic presentation with lots of practical examples of how to use the information.***

## **SERVICE PATHWAYS PROJECT**

In November 2006, Investing In Our Youth released a report for service providers in the Greater Bunbury Region. The report titled "Services for Children from Families with a History of Alcohol and Other Drug Use" was a three stage report that reviewed:

- **existing local services for families with a history of substance use**
- **gaps in service delivery identified by current service providers, and,**
- **a profile of services that have been developed for these clients nationally**

This project was funded by the WA Office of Crime Prevention. An evaluation of the report elicited the following responses.

*"It has given me a good insight in to what is happening in the community. I am pleased to see the agencies coming together and working as a team. From a hospital workers point of view, drug and alcohol use is on the increase and it is good to know where and to whom we can refer. Thank you."*

*"A good insight into the whole area. This coordinated approach seems like a great idea and looking at other models and what has worked well, then being able to determine the needs of each area and tailor programs to that community. Well done."*

# HIGHLIGHTS 2006/2007 (CONTINUED)

## LINKING EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PROGRAM

Investing In Our Youth Inc has partnered with the Department of Education and Training as the lead agency for the Linking Education and Families Program (LEAF), funded through the National Community Crime Prevention Program. ILOY will be monitoring the implementation of the program into six primary schools in Bunbury in the 2007 school year.

The LEAF program is based on a pilot developed by school teacher Fiona Farren at South Bunbury Primary School. The aims of the project are to:

- support families in recognising that early child development is a priority for future wellbeing
- connect families to appropriate early intervention services
- work with families and children in their homes and communities to ensure children are ready for school

Kindergarten teachers make home visits twice yearly and also develop a 'Play Café' concept where parents can receive social support and link with local resources for families (child health nurses, community health professionals, speech pathologist etc).

Early childhood development and strategies that support transition from home to school are emerging areas of interest nationally and internationally and there will be broad interest in the findings of the LEAF program evaluation.

## EVALUATION OF THE FAMILY ALCOHOL COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Investing In Our Youth was contracted to conduct a mid term internal evaluation of the 'Family Alcohol Community Education' (FACE) program for Mission Australia in February, 2007. The FACE program is a pilot program targeting children and young people who have a sibling, parent, or carer who misuses alcohol.


The purpose of the program is to use a pro-active approach with at risk children and adolescents to change attitudes and beliefs about alcohol; assist increased involvement in social and recreational activities; develop positive interpersonal relationships; and build confidence and self esteem.

The evaluation process involved informal interviews, case studies, document analysis, participant data, and a literature review.

## THE *headspace* FUNDING SUBMISSION

In March 2007, Investing In Our Youth were contracted by the Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice to prepare a funding application to the Australian Government's National Youth Mental Health Foundation, *headspace*. The fund seeks to encourage a coordinated service approach to youth mental health and substance use so that young people can more readily receive professional help. *headspace* also aims to build awareness of mental health issues and encourage young people to seek help much earlier.

A consortium of service providers have met regularly to discuss details of the submission with



representation from South West Mental Health Service, South West Community Drug Service Team, Edith Cowan University, Bunbury and Warren-Blackwood District Education Offices, South West Aboriginal Medical Service, Bunbury Pathways, ASWA, Jobs South West, Mission Australia, Investing In Our Youth and the Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice.

Investing In Our Youth continues to liaise with the funding body, the lead agency, the consortium, and young people, in order to develop a model that will improve access to youth services in the South West.

## **SOUTH WEST RESEARCH NETWORK**

In May 2007, Investing In Our Youth founded the South West Research Network. This was in response to an emerging need in the South West for collaborative approaches to research, particularly in the area of mental health and wellbeing. The network aims and terms of reference are still to be developed in detail but initial thoughts are that the network may offer peer support, for example, reviewing research plans, sharing key speakers, discussing ethics perspectives.

A SW network could also identify priority research targets and follow through with recommended research actions. There is also interest in developing more formalised links with organisations such as the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth.

## **'BABY BEATS' REPORT**

Investing In Our Youth has been contracted to complete a report for the Co-ordinators of the Baby Beats program. The program focuses on the pleasure

and power of rhymes, songs, and stories. Parents gain skills and confidence which enables them to create positive family patterns during their children's crucial early years, and gives their children healthy early experiences with language and communication.

Practitioners in the helping professions often find themselves seeking opportunities to sustain programs beyond their initial funding period. This brief report was commissioned to enable conclusions to be drawn about factors that influence sustainability, particularly in application to the Baby Beats Programs. Research methodology primarily involved case studies of two programs delivered in Bunbury, and informal interviews with key program facilitators.

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY**

Investing In Our Youth supports agencies that provide services to children and youth. This may be in the form of advice, links to evidence based research and statistics, and letters of support.

Letters of support have been written to assist many agencies and community groups in their attempts to attract additional resources for parents, children and youth in the South West. A sample of projects that were supported by 'Investing In Our Youth' are listed below:

- **Nurture Works (Busselton) funding initiative to run programs that build resilience in families and children**
- **Injury Control Council "Understanding and Building Resilience in the South West" suicide prevention project**

## HIGHLIGHTS 2006/2007 (CONTINUED)

- South West Disability Coalition request for more health services in the South West Region for children with special needs
- Milligan Resource Centre application to develop and deliver a resource for young people that will help prevent domestic violence
- Capel Shire's application for funding for a crime prevention program.

In the 2006/2007 financial year, Investing In Our Youth supported the following forums, steering groups and committees:

- South West Youth Coordinating Network
- Bunbury Early Years Network
- Health and Well Being Steering Committee
- Capel Crime Prevention Committee
- Suicide Prevention Forum
- SW Youth and Community Transport Forum
- South West Youth and Community Housing Working Group
- Youth Mental Health Symposium (Perth)
- Australian Early Development Index Conference (Melbourne)

### POPULATION APPROACHES TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Investing In Our Youth supported the Shire of Dardanup's 'What's Your Anti-Drug?' campaign. The campaign enlisted a group of 12 young people to promote the anti-drug message to peers and to get the message out to the greater community. Young people talked about the natural highs they received through favourite activities like motocross, cycling, hanging out with friends, skateboarding, music, and sport. The messages were promoted on car stickers and in the South Western Times.
- Investing in Our Youth entered into an agreement with an Edith Cowan University student on practicum to develop a series of media columns on youth issues. Issues included: youth suicide, bullying and harassment, conflict resolution, alcohol and drug use, domestic violence and same sex attraction. These columns were sponsored by the Bunbury Mail and appeared in print in early in 2007. The process was overseen and completed by Dr Marilyn Palmer, from the ECU Faculty of Regional Professional Studies

- The Linking Education and Families program identified the need to access an up to date resource list of services for families of young children so that links and referrals could more readily be made by and for families in need of assistance. Investing In Our Youth was successful in applying for Early Years funding to collate, print and laminate a summary of services for families living in Bunbury. Components of the resource list included an A-Z children's health contact list and a compendium of services for families in crisis.



# STAFFING AND GOVERNANCE

Investing In Our Youth Inc is currently staffed by a Project Officer and Office Administrator. IIOY is governed by members of the IIOY Steering Group.

## STAFF

**Carmen Gregg**, B. Soc Sc; Project Officer for Investing In Our Youth (0.7 FTE).

**Robyn Golding**, Office Administrator (0.375 FTE).

**Mark Jennings**, B. Bus., Accountant and Accountant/Treasurer to Investing In Our Youth (volunteer).

External audits are undertaken by **Mr Des Duplex**, Certified Accountant.

Investing In Our Youth Inc, has the capacity to engage additional casual and contracted project staff as needed.

## GOVERNANCE

Investing In Our Youth is governed by a Steering Committee that meets monthly.

Steering Committee members include:

- Chairperson **Professor Rhonda Oliver**, Edith Cowan University, South West Campus, Bunbury.
- Deputy Chairperson **Ms Janelle Leiper**, Population Health, Western Australian Country Health Service – South West.
- Treasurer, **Mr Mark Jennings**, Certified Accountant.
- **Ms Kris Robinson**, Senior Social Worker, Agencies for South West Accommodation
- **Ms Jane Harvey**, Manager Participation, Bunbury District Education Office
- **Ms Carolyn Ngan**, Western Australian Country Health Service, Mental Health Directorate
- **Mr Brendan Buck**, Mission Australia, South West WA Services Manager

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Our priority for the 2007/08 year will be to aim to further establish the organisation and lift the profile of Investing In Our Youth.

Strategies will include updating the Investing In Our Youth brochure and web site. Mr Geoff Finlay has offered to help progress plans to update the [www.investinginouryouth.com.au](http://www.investinginouryouth.com.au) website and work with IIOY staff so they have the necessary skills to keep the web site current on an ongoing basis.

It is also our intention to develop a corporate governance manual, a project that we hope will be funded through Lotterywest. The Investing In Our Youth constitution will be reviewed and updated to represent the current objectives and operating structure of the organisation.

We also aim to attract ongoing infrastructure funding and our target again will be Lotterywest and/or corporate sponsorship. Funds will be sought to support the role of IIOY as an executive group who advocate for children and youth in the South West.

As a collaborative organisation, Investing In Our Youth needs to be dynamic and flexible, and able to respond to emerging needs. The work and future direction of the group will further develop as the 2007/2008 year unfolds.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

By taking on tasks like the FACE evaluation, the LEAF project and *headspace*, IIOY has been able to increase available funds while seeking ongoing infrastructure funding to supplement the day to day running costs of the organisation.

At present the group is financially viable in the short to medium term, thanks to the financial management of the Treasurer, Mark Jennings and Office Administrator, Robyn Golding. Thanks must

also go to the Education Department and the various individuals and organisations that provide volunteer and in-kind support, which enables the organisation to function without extra strain on monetary and physical resources.

An external audit has been undertaken by Mr Des Duplex and a summary financial report is available over leaf.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

### AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members

#### SCOPE

I have examined the books of account and records of Investing in Our Youth Inc., for the year ended 30 June 2007.

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and the information contained therein, and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the program and are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The audit has been conducted to provide reasonable assurance that the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures include examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether the financial report is presented fairly so as to provide a view which is consistent with my understanding of the financial position of Investing in Our Youth Inc. and the results of its operations.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's reporting requirements. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any other purpose than for which it was prepared.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### QUALIFICATION AND AUDIT OPINION

Investing in Our Youth Inc., in common with many groups of similar size, does not operate a comprehensive system of internal control and the effectiveness of any audit is limited by this.

Subject to this, in my opinion, the accompanying statements of Profit and Loss and Job Profit & Loss present fairly the financial performance of the group for the period ended 30 June 2007 and the Balance Sheet presents fairly the financial position of the group for the year then ended according to the best of my information and explanations received and as shown by the records of Investing In Our Youth Inc.

**D S Duplex**

Certified Practicing Accountant

15 August 2007

Bunbury, Western Australia

# BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

## INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH INC.

PO Box 6103  
Bunbury South, WA, 6231

<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
CDF Acct No. 9808 Lott		\$31,141.84	
Total Cash On Hand		\$31,141.84	
Pledges Receivable		\$10,728.00	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<b>\$41,869.84</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>\$41,869.84</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accrued Expenses		\$156.10	
GST Liabilities			
GST Collected	\$3,277.27		
GST Paid	<b>(\$43.49)</b>	\$3,233.78	
Payroll Deductions Payable	\$1,464.00		
Superannuation Payable	<u>\$341.99</u>		
Total Payroll Liabilities		\$1,805.99	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<b><u>\$5,195.87</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>\$36,673.97</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Members Funds		\$37,755.57	
Current Year Surplus/Deficit		<b>(\$1,081.60)</b>	
<b>Total Equity</b>			<b>\$36,673.97</b>

# BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

## LINKING EDUCATION AND FAMILIES (LEAF)

PO Box 6103  
Bunbury WA 6231

<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash On Hand		
Cheque Account	\$1,315.35	
Petty Cash	<u>\$41.50</u>	
Total Cash On Hand		\$1,356.85
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>\$1,356.85</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		\$1,356.85
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
GST Paid	<b>(\$3,444.37)</b>	
Payroll Deductions Payable	\$290.00	
Superannuation Payable	<u>\$98.63</u>	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>(\$3,055.74)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><b>(\$3,055.74)</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		\$4,412.59
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Surplus/Deficit		\$4,412.59
<b>Total Equity</b>		\$4,412.59



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





Investing in  
our youth Inc.

