

Community Services Excellence Awards 2012

CATEGORY 1 – ORGANISATIONS

Community Services Excellence Award - Volunteer-Based Organisation

CATCH MUSIC

At the heart of Catch Music's philosophy is the belief that making music as a group brings people together, creates social opportunities and builds an inclusive and friendly community. Catch Music encourages participation from people of all backgrounds and abilities, including people with a disability, their families and carers. The group values the unique contributions of its participants and provides an opportunity for them to develop their love of music in a supportive and positive environment. Since it was established in 2007, the organisation now runs eight community jam sessions across Perth each week.

CITY OF MELVILLE CITIZENS RELIEF FUND INC

The City of Melville Citizens Relief Fund provides emergency financial relief to residents in the City of Melville. The relief is offered in times of crisis, sickness, distress or poverty. The City of Melville Citizens Relief Fund also operates counselling services. In the 2010 and 2011 financial year, more than \$40,000 in emergency assistance was provided, in addition to the distribution of food hampers through the year and Christmas hampers to help families in need celebrate the festive season.

DONGARA CHARITIES ASSOCIATION INC – DONGARA OP SHOP

The Dongara Charities Association was established when local school children were unable to attend an event in Perth for financial reasons and now runs a not-for-profit shop in Dongara. The organisation has given community groups in excess of \$95,000 in the last 12 months, including donations to The Royal Flying Doctor Service, Ronald McDonald House in Perth, Camp Quality and various disaster relief funds throughout Western Australia.

GROWING TOWARDS WELLNESS PTY LTD – GROWING TOWARDS WELLNESS PROGRAM

Growing Towards Wellness uses horticulture as therapy for people with mental illness. The program aims to build participants' confidence to enter the mainstream workplace while attaining a certificate in Conservation and Land Management. The program has been successful, with many participants moving into paid employment. Program organisers have also established partnerships with organisations including the Bunbury Port Authority, Rio Tinto, the City of Cockburn and Unions WA.

Community Services Excellence Awards – Small Organisation

KALGOORLIE BOULDER URBAN LANDCARE GROUP – BETTER ENVIRONMENT – BETTER LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

The Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group has helped to establish and conserve the local environment in the Goldfields for over 40 years. With a focus on sustainability, public awareness and action, the group engages the Kalgoorlie community to produce meaningful, worthwhile community projects that rehabilitate and enhance the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's environment while fostering community spirit. Activities include junior land care, water wise education, bush walks and recycling programs. Since 2000, more than 110 000 trees and shrubs have been planted as part of the group's activities. With more than 500 members, the group is well positioned to continue its active contribution to the community for years to come.

SENIORS RECREATIONAL COUNCIL OF WA INC

The Seniors Recreational Council of WA is a highly respected, not-for-profit organisation, which promotes active ageing. The Council's flagship program Be Active Have a Go Day has taken place each year since 1994, and attracted more than 15,000 people last year. The Council also runs the Be Active Aged Care Games a program that encourages physical activity for those living in aged care facilities.

THE BIG ISSUE AUSTRALIA

"The Big Issue" is one of the world's most successful social enterprise businesses, assisting people who are marginalised to reduce social isolation, participate in the community and contribute to their future. The Big Issue can count among its successes that it's also the world's most widely circulated street newspaper. It is estimated that The Big Issue program saves the community \$20,000 per vendor through a reduction in the level of access to social services.

THE HALO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AGENCY INC

The Halo Leadership Development Agency is one of a kind – a unique, not-for-profit youth led organisation, driven by Aboriginal young men for Aboriginal young men. Using a unique peer mentoring model the agency listens to the needs of Aboriginal young people and their families, provides advocacy, programmes and networking opportunities that enable individuals to discover who they are, design their own futures and make a difference in their community. All Halo youth workers are under 25 and have a strong commitment to breaking the cycle of offending within the Aboriginal community, advancing hopes, aspirations and leadership opportunities.

Community Services Excellence Awards - Medium Organisation

CENTACARE FAMILY SERVICES GERALDTON

Emergency relief, child contact service, welfare advocacy, counselling, Indigenous children programs and employee assistance programs are among some of the services offered at Centacare Family Services Geraldton. The staff comprises psychologists, social workers and psychotherapists, all of whom work to deliver the organisations values of service, compassion, justice and excellence. Recent projects including the Christmas lunch project and the Schoolbook project actively encouraged individuals, young people and families to better engage with the community.

DREAMFIT FOUNDATION

Dreamfit Foundation is a not-for-profit engineering company with a difference, creating and implementing design projects that enable people with disabilities to take part in sport and leisure activities.

The organisation prides itself on working closely with people who have a disability to determine what it is that they want to achieve. Previous projects have included designing a wheelchair accessible hovercraft and ski boat, a hand controlled motorcycle and a seated surfboard.

SIDS AND KIDS WESTERN AUSTRALIA – REDUCING THE RISK OF SIDS IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

SIDS and Kids Western Australia provides innovative, culturally appropriate education and loss and grief services throughout WA. These services include “train the trainer” education; a healing families program; community events; online and social media; and research.

To address the unacceptably high risk of Aboriginal babies dying suddenly in their sleep, the Reducing the Risk of SIDS in Aboriginal Communities Program provides education in Indigenous communities. The program is the first of its kind in Australia and is nationally recognised as a well-established, highly successful Indigenous program.

SOUTH COASTAL WOMEN’S HEALTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION (INC)

The South Coastal Women’s Health Services Association is a not-for-profit organisation run by women for women, which provides health services in Rockingham and Kwinana.

In the 21 years since it was established it has grown to 31 staff and two volunteers and now delivers a range of services, including clinical and counselling services, group work, health promotion and alternative health services for all women.

Community Services Excellence Award - Large Organisation

ANGLICARE WA

Anglicare WA works to make a difference in three main areas: relationships, housing and financial stress. Anglicare provides 57 services in 35 locations across the State - from as far north as Kununurra to as far south as Albany and is taking a lead role in the establishment of the Foyer, Australia's first purpose built facility providing 98 young people with support as they transition to independent living. It also offers a children's domestic violence service, and Stepping Stones – a school based program for young people whose parents have separated. In the past year alone, Anglicare has provided assistance to around 35,000 Western Australians.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS – TELECROSS SERVICE

The increasing incidences of people found dead in their home - days, weeks or months after their passing are heart-wrenching. The Australian Red Cross recognised the need for a telecommunication service for people who are socially isolated. The Telecross program began as a trial in the Fremantle area, and has since been rolled out to metropolitan Perth and regional Western Australia. The Telecross service consists of a daily telephone call to a client to check on their welfare. It makes a huge difference to the lives of service recipients – ensuring their safety but also providing much needed social interaction. Staffed primarily by volunteers, the service assisted 663 people in 2011 and continues to grow.

CATEGORY 2 – REGIONAL

Community Services Excellence Award - Regional Organisation

CENTACARE FAMILY SERVICES GERALDTON

Emergency relief, child contact service, welfare advocacy, counselling, Indigenous children's programs and employee assistance programs are just some of the vital programs delivered by Centacare Family Services. Established in 1986, Centacare has five offices in Geraldton, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Yalgoo and the Geraldton Court House. It is estimated that more than 10,000 people were assisted by the organisation in 2010 and 2011. The staff - which includes psychologists, social workers and psychotherapists - work towards the organisation's values of service, compassion, justice and excellence.

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER URBAN LANDCARE GROUP – BETTER ENVIRONMENT – BETTER LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

The Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group has helped to establish and conserve the local environment in the Goldfields for over 40 years. With a focus on sustainability, public awareness and action, the group engages the Kalgoorlie community to produce meaningful, worthwhile community projects that rehabilitate and enhance the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's environment while fostering community spirit. Activities include junior land care, water wise education, bush walks and recycling programs. Since the year 2000, more than 110,000 trees and shrubs have been planted as part of the group's activities. With more than 500

members, the group is well positioned to continue its contribution to community for years to come.

WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE, GREAT SOUTHERN – RURAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE

Rural Community Support Service is a rural mental health service that provides primary mental health services to communities that do not have access to private counsellors, limited access to GPs and difficulty accessing mainstream health services due to their location. It offers free short-term counselling, outreach support and community education. The service has also developed regular ‘yarning’ sessions to encourage networking within Aboriginal communities.

YMCA OF PERTH – SWIM FOR LIFE: FIRST TIME JOBS PROGRAM

The YMCA delivers an Aboriginal youth employment program known as “Swim for Life – First time Jobs” in the Pilbara. The program is designed to create ‘first-time’ employment opportunities by qualifying Aboriginal young people as professional lifeguards. As well as providing a qualification and employment, Swim for Life encourages the development of positive role models, and improves the social and emotional wellbeing of participants. To date, 40 young people have been employed as lifeguards, over half of them young women.

CATEGORY 3 – PARTNERSHIPS AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Community Services Excellence Award - Partnerships and Strategic Alliances

ANGLICARE WA – THE STANDBY SUICIDE RESPONSE SERVICE IN THE KIMBERLEY

Anglicare WA’s StandBy Suicide Response Service in the Kimberly is a community based program that provides 24 hour coordinated crisis response to assist families, friends and associates who have been bereaved through suicide.

The approach is unique in the field of suicide postvention. StandBy has established formal partnerships with organisations including the WA Police, The Department for Child Protection Kimberley, and the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service.

OK YOUTH SERVICES

OK Youth Services has developed a successful partnership incorporating West Coast Institute of Training and the City of Wanneroo, providing programs for young Aboriginal people. This program is delivered through WCIT’s Aboriginal Academy of Sports, Health and Education (AASHE). Ok Youth Services was established by the young people of the Ocean Keys Community Church Clarkson, who wanted to do more for the local young people of the area. The organisation now runs a school for at-risk youth that supports 105 students, a funded program to help Aboriginal parents keep their children in school and a drop-in basketball competition.

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The YMCA delivers an Aboriginal youth employment program known as Swim for Life – First time Jobs in Hedland located in the Pilbara. The program creates 'first-time' employment opportunities by enabling Aboriginal young people to qualify as professional lifeguards. As well as providing a qualification and employment, Swim for Life encourages positive role models and improves the social and emotional wellbeing of participants. To date, 40 young people have been employed as lifeguards, over half of them young women. The program is funded through partnership agreements with BHP Billiton Iron Ore, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Pindan Industrial College, Hedland Senior High School and Department of Corrective Services.

YOUTH FOCUS INC – HAWAIIAN RIDE FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

Youth Focus is a charity that operates mental health services for young people in Western Australia. In partnership with Hawaiian Ride for Youth, Youth Focus coordinate a five day bike ride from Albany to Perth. It is a fantastic example of a successful partnership between ordinary people and a not-for-profit organisation. It's also Youth Focus' most successful fundraising event. The ride has raised over \$4.5 million in 10 years and more recently in 2011, the event grossed over \$941,500. The funds raised support the delivery of Youth Focus mental health services to young people as well as impacting the lives of many young people involved in the event.

CATEGORY 4 – MEDIA AND PROMOTION

Community Services Excellence Award - Outstanding Achievement in Raising the Profile of Community Services to Western Australians

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walks and recycling programs. Their extensive list of projects and activities ensures that these is always a community event taking place, often resulting in increased profile for the group and its community work.

MIDLAS - MIDLAND INFORMATION, DEBT AND LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE INC – MIDLAS SOCIAL INNOVATION PROGRAM

The Midland Debt and Legal Service offers six free services to disadvantaged and vulnerable people within their community. The work undertaken by MIDLAS is fundamental in reducing the levels of poverty and crime in the northern eastern metropolitan region of Perth. As part of its work, MIDLAS has implemented a highly effective social media campaign to disseminate relevant and up-to-date information and advocacy options to clients, raise awareness about the plight of the disadvantaged, and to collectively inform and build stronger connections with their wider networks. MIDLAS currently has six dedicated and integrated social media platforms.

YAMATJI MARLPA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION – URANIUM INFORMATION PROGRAM

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation represents around 25 Traditional Owner communities in the Pilbara and Mid-West each with their own language, culture and traditions. The corporation works to protect the country, recognise culture and create a strong future for Aboriginal people. IN 2008, the corporation found itself responding to requests from Traditional Owners, the local community, Government, the mining industry and interest groups about issue of Uranium Mining. Yamatji Marlpa took a collaborative, holistic approach to the issue, succeeding in providing clear and unbiased information. This included the coordination of a conference, workshops, an educational tour to the Northern Territory, and the development of e-Newsletters and other communications material.

CATEGORY 5 – INDIVIDUAL

Community Services Excellence Award – Outstanding Commitment by an Individual

DR ANN O'NEILL

Dr Ann O'Neill not only has managed to overcome her own experience of violent crime, but also became very active in providing support for others who have suffered through violent crime. She has educated herself to the highest-level possible, established a not-for-profit organisation for a community in need and has an active and ongoing role as an advocate for people affected by violent crime in Western Australia. She provides a safety net of support for many people who have nowhere else to turn and is a passionate supporter of those who have experienced the trauma associated with a violent crime.

DR GRAHAM FISHER

Trained as a general surgeon in South Africa, Dr Graham Fisher emigrated to Australia in 1977, and spent the next 22 years working in a Bunbury practice and

across smaller hospitals in the South West region of WA. In his retirement, Graham founded the Val Lishman Health Research Foundation, believing that a health research organisation would help to attract more health professionals to the region. He has worked in a voluntary capacity as Honorary Executive Officer, developing governance structures, educating the community, identifying, promoting and managing research projects, raising funds and developing partnerships. His work has enabled local research to be conducted into such areas as Ross River Virus, and suicide and road trauma management.

MS JENNIFER HANNAN

Jennifer Hannan's pioneering work and advocacy for children over a 30-year career has been driven by a personal passion for children's voices to be heard, for their needs to be recognised as important, and proper services for them to be funded. As Anglicare's WA's Executive General Manager, Jennifer has lobbied for government funding and used private fundraising to create demonstration projects of new children's service concepts. These successful programs have proven that a need exists and ensured ongoing funding. Jennifer is described as having improved Anglicare WA's services, policies and procedures, helping to increase clinical capacity.

MS LEE-ANNE SMITH

Lee-Anne's determination to provide opportunities for Aboriginal young men and their families in her community has helped shape, strengthen and inspire not only those living in her community but the wider community service industry. Her commitment is evidenced through her founding of the Halo Leadership Development Agency – with the funds from the sale of her own home. Halo provides advocacy, programmes and networking opportunities that enable Aboriginal young people to discover who they are, design their own futures and make a difference in their community. She also represents her community as an Elected Member of Local Government at the City of Cockburn.