



Media Release

15 March 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mobile Assistance for Youth on the Street

Young people in Cockburn will soon have a new arm to lean on thanks to generous funding from the City of Cockburn. The City has given Drug ARM WA \$15,000 to bring its Street Van Outreach Service to South Lake.

The Street Van Outreach Service is staffed by trained staff and volunteers and goes out on Friday and Saturday nights to assist young people on the streets. They are able to provide information on different drugs and relevant services as well as a listening ear, immediate basic First Aid, free tea, coffee and milo and referrals to agencies that can help.

Chris Summerfield, Youth Outreach Coordinator for Drug ARM WA, says that the Street Van regularly assists with a listening ear and emotional support, access to phone and face to face counselling and finding emergency accommodation,. "Some young people are out on the street late at night because it's preferable to being at home in a bad situation," he says. "It's people like this that really benefit from us being out in their community."

City of Cockburn Youth Services Coordinator, Mary Ashe, believes the success of the Street Outreach Van in other areas of Perth shows that it's a service that young people need.

"The City of Cockburn is committed to providing real solutions within the communities that need them most," she says. "Drug ARM WA's involvement at large events like the 2006 Australia Day Sky Show and School Leavers Celebrations at Rottnest, Kalbarri and Dunsborough, shows they have what it takes to help us make a real difference."

The Street Van Outreach Service will be officially launched at a special event on Friday 24th March at 10:30am in time for the first outing onto the streets of South Lake that evening.

END OF MEDIA RELEASE

Chris Summerfield is available on 9497 9498

Mary Ashe is available on 0438 950 458

Photo opportunity at the launch on 24th March

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