

Railway Outreach Launch a Great Success



Rob Douglas, Ian Passmore, Allannah McTiernan and Wendy Murray

Last month we had the pleasure of holding the launch of the Rail Outreach Project. Over thirty invited guests attended the launch held at Armadale Train Station. Guests were given a brief address from Ian Passmore (Chairperson, Drug ARM WA Executive Board), Allannah McTiernan (Minister for Planning and Infrastructure), Wendy Murray (Director, Office of Crime Prevention), and finally Rob Douglas (vice Chairperson, Drug ARM WA Executive Board).

Invited guests joined us back at the Drug ARM WA Board room a light lunch. There was a lot of interest in the project from other agencies and local media as the pilot project is the first of its kind in Western Australia.

Since its launch the project has been going very well and teams have reported making good contact with a number of young people.

Ansvar Insurance Presents a Cheque

Earlier this year Mike Thomas who is a member of the Drug ARM WA Board and the State Manager of Ansvar Insurance presented a cheque for \$30,000 to go toward our Youth Options Program.

Ansvar Insurance have been long-term partners with Drug ARM WA and in the past have helped us by purchasing our first street van and funding the jumpers worn by our rail outreach workers. We are greatly appreciative of their ongoing generosity and support.



Mike Thomas presents Susy with the cheque for \$30,000.

A Story From Rosella House

Last year was when I hit
absolute rock bottom.

I was diagnosed with anxiety disorders - social phobia, agoraphobia and panic attack disorder, I lived a silent, invisible life of absolute terror and panic. Leaving my house would cause me to feel terrorised. I had absolutely no self esteem and went into extreme bouts of depression. I was living in an emotionally abusive relationship and continuously felt the blame for everything and I felt guilty for being such a miserable failure in society.

Drinking alcohol was one of my strategies to ease the pain and stress and shame of it all. Consequently this only added to the fear, pain and shame. I was in one huge vicious cycle of dependency on alcohol and miserable. Confusion and feeling totally lost and somehow at fault became the normal feelings for me. Secrecy (sometimes to myself even) denial and justification were common practice in my mentality.

Rosella House was a blessing for me. My life turned around completely. The support and encouragement was fantastic. I decided to stay clean and sober.

It hasn't always been easy as I've had to face ugly feelings of loss without being intoxicated. But I have and continue to grow stronger every day.

I can actually say now that I am happy even though grief still lingers in my heart. I laugh more than I have laughed and smile more than I have smiled in probably 20 years.

Drug ARM WA Board Visits Geraldton

In March the Executive Board visited Geraldton to meet with key stakeholders, including local church ministers and staff from other agencies.



Rosella House in Geraldton

Church ministers were invited to attend a function at one of our Transitional houses where they met with Board members and staff and residents at the Transitional house and watched a DVD about Drug ARM and the services we provide.

Following this the board attended a BBQ with staff, residents and volunteers from Rosella House as well as staff

and volunteers from the Geraldton Street Van. This was a great opportunity for the Geraldton Drug ARM team to come together and celebrate the great work they have been doing.

Op-Shop Update



Two of our op shops, Kelmscott and Innaloo now have eftpos facilities for customer convenience. Since the installations took place many customers have taken advantage of the facility which should augur well for an increase in op shop sales.

Recently, we advertised for new op-shop volunteers. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer please phone Marilyn on 9495 4495.



Charity Golf Day

The Perth Wildcats and Ansva Insurance are jointly organising a Charity

Golf Day to raise funds for Drug ARM WA.

The proposed day of the event is the 9th of August at Burswood Golf Course. For more information please phone Ansva Insurance on 1300 650 540.



A Note from the Director

Drug ARM WA has had a challenging and rewarding year so far. It is always heart-warming to see changes in lives. This year we had some great people who completed the Rosella House Program and excelled in Art; particularly indigenous Art. I wish I could display all of the art work! Many of these young people who have completed the program, are back at school or getting an apprenticeship which is a joy to see.

This is part of what we have done in partnership with our supporters. To continue this work and reach out to many more people we need your support. Your time, money and prayers are very much needed. Will you be a partner with Drug ARM WA?

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Susy Thomas.



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