

## Street Van flourishing after 15 years



Street Van 1992

The Street Van has been going out and meeting people on the street of Perth since 1992. A lot has changed since then; not only in the operation of the van itself, but also in the types of people we meet. The van has been to numerous locations in search of people in need and has even had a few makeovers in its time.

Over the years we have operated the van in Fremantle, Rockingham, Nollamara, Beechboro, Balga, Kelmscott, Armadale, Kalamunda, Belmont, Cockburn, Kwinana, Northbridge, Albany and Geraldton.



Street Van 2007

The van started out in 1992 with 32 volunteers, most of whom were friends of Susy's daughter. All of the workers on the van were volunteers including the team leader. This would sometimes make it quite a task to organise as different volunteers would have the keys to the van at different times! Originally the van was more about providing friendship and support to street present young people, a hot drink and someone to talk to.

Over the years and with the appointment of four youth workers (one for each metro van), the service has evolved into one that provides

professional support to the people we come into contact with, linking them with other services that can support them in their more specific areas of need.

In the last 15 years the street van team has made contact with thousands of people. Hundreds of people found accommodation, and many have gone through drug rehabilitation programs after accessing information through the street van program.

### Youth Options

Provides a new Opportunity.

Steve Thomas was a resident in our accommodation program and attended YOP during the day.

At a very young age Steve's mother passed away and his father was a drug user who palmed him off to anyone who would take him. But ST always ran away and eventually found himself on the streets with no where else to go.

At age 14 Steve found himself a decent job and began getting heavily into drugs. This is the shortened version of a very long story which led to Steve getting involved in a lifestyle of crime, which in turn led to him being referred to our program.

While Steve was with us he engaged very well in counselling and managed to stay away from drugs— for the first time he was able to assess his life with a clear mind and make plans to move forward with a drug-free future.

## Empowering Parents with knowledge

### Drug Education for concerned Adults

Drug ARM WA offers a seminar consisting of three sessions designed for parents, grandparents, parents to be, and anyone concerned about young people and drug use. Information covered includes;

- Background information on drugs and their use and abuse in the Australian context . Explore some of the reasons why people use drugs.
- Strategies to deal with some of the

tough questions families face when they discover their child is using (or mixing in a crowd of users).

- Ways to build a trusting relationship with your teenager while exploring ways to discuss issues concerning drugs and their use with the children.
- What to do when all else fails – what do I do and what can I say to ensure my child is safe?

Drug ARM WA may be able to provide other information seminars upon request— please contact the office for further information.

## Youth Binge Drinking on the increase



In a 2005 survey of 21, 805 young people across Australia between the ages of 12-17 found results confirming that the drug and alcohol problem is increasing.

The survey found that 86% of all young people in this age group had consumed alcohol in their lifetime and about 30% had consumed alcohol in the past week. Of those who had consumed alcohol

in the past week about 30% reported drinking at levels that risk short term harm (males over 7 drinks, and females over 5 drinks). That equates to 1,962 young people just from this small survey section who appeared to be binge drinking and putting themselves "at risk" on a regular basis. This number has steadily increased over the past two years.

*(Information extracted from "Of Substance Magazine" April 2007 Vol. 5, No. 2, p 22-23)*

## Rail Outreach to Continue

Drug ARM WA received good news this month that our rail project would continue. The pilot project which began in April was the first of its kind in Australia and was due to end in September. Since it began it has received positive feedback from the Transit Guard Staff, hence the Drug and Alcohol Office have funded the program to continue to December. Following this there will be a review to determine how the service may be able to expand in the future.

## Welcome back Gaye

We had the pleasure of welcoming Gaye back to our staff at Rosella House in August. Gaye worked as a support worker at Rosella House for a number of years leaving in 2006 to finish her psychology degree. Gaye is in her final year of study and is now supporting Rosella House in a counselling and Supervisor role.

## Op Shop Volunteer of the Year Awards



**OP Shop Volunteers 2007**



**Donna Faragher, with Denis and Ruth Guyatt**

Drug ARM WA held a Christmas in July lunch to congratulate all of the Op Shop volunteers on their hard work throughout the year. Guests enjoyed a two course lunch at the Manse restaurant in Armadale. A number of awards were presented during the occasion including the Op Shop Volunteer of the Year award which was sponsored by Donna Faragher, Shadow Minister for Drug Abuse Strategy and Youth. This award went to Denis and Ruth Guyatt. Denis and Ruth have been involved with Drug ARM WA since the 1970's and have been selfless supporters of our organisation ever since.

### NOTICE:

Annual General Meeting  
Drug Arm WA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th October at 2pm in the Drug ARM WA Board Room.



Title	
First Name	
Surname	
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Postcode	
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E-mail:	

## Help those who have lost their way

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Please accept my Cheque/Money Order

Or debit my credit card.

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

To donate by telephone , please contact  
**(08) 9497 9498**

Drug ARM WA values your privacy and is bound by the national privacy principles in our handling of your personal information.  Please tick this box, if you do not wish to be kept up to date of Drug ARM WA Activities.