

28 March 2011

Youth get creative on safety – free exhibition

The creative expressions of Perth's most innovative arts and social research project, 'Our Space, Safe Place' will launch during National Youth Week and run as a free exhibition to the public.

The 'Our Space, Safe Place' project engaged young people from ages 12 - 25 in a series of art and photography workshops and an online survey to find out what they think of safety in public spaces that are important to them. With the survey revealing one in two feel unsafe in public places, the exhibition journeys through 'unsafe to safe' territory and scenarios and the strategies young people use to engage in public life and "not live a life of fear".

More than 500 young people from a range of socially diverse backgrounds participated in the project including; employed and unemployed, diverse gender and sexuality groups, students, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, Indigenous people, homeless young people and young people with disabilities. Justin, aged 20, participated in the workshops in Northbridge on the YMCA of Perth's Mobile Youth Outreach Service. Justin is a homeless, street present young person and lives in hostel accommodation. He explained what he liked best about this project, "The fact that you got to use the cameras and take as many pictures as you want...of anything you like. You could go wild." When asked about using art/photography as a way of getting messages across Justin said, "For some people it may work [using verbal messages], for me art and photography actually helps more...sometimes you can't express what you're feeling with words"

The WA Patron for National Youth Week 2011, Lia Ursich, acted as a steering committee member for the project. Ms Ursich explains the benefits of the uniqueness of the 'Our Space, Safe Place' project, "Visual mediums are so important to express young people's views and the creativity and richness of this project, the survey and the contributions to making WA a safer place will get the attention of policy makers - it's not just another standard report placed on their desk."

The Injury Control Council of WA CEO Deborah Costello further explains, "The quality of the art and photography is outstanding. All the outcomes from the 'Our Space, Safe Place' project will be collated into a reference book for urban planners and housed in the State Reference Library. A series of limited edition autographed books will be auctioned for charity. This project has set the gold standard for youth and social research. We are so proud of the young people involved; their contributions will make a difference".

Exhibition details

Launch (By invitation): 12 noon – 2pm Friday 8th April
12.15pm The Minister for Youth Robin McSweeney officially
opens the exhibition
Award Presentations

Media are welcome please contact Jade Stott on 9420 7212
or jstott@iccwa.org.au

Public welcome: 3pm Friday 8th – 21st April 2011

Where: Gallery Central (TAFE)
12 Aberdeen Street, Northbridge

Thank you

The Our Space, Safe Place Project would like to thank all the young people who participated including those from Aranmore Catholic College; City of Swan, the YMCA Mobile Youth Outreach Service in Langford, Beeliar and Northbridge; City of Cockburn, Passages Resource Centre; Inspire Foundation and WA Substance Users Association; and WA AIDS Council's Freedom Centre;

Our Space, Safe Pace was proudly supported by Lotterywest, the Department for Communities' Office for Youth and Healthway.

For further information please contact ICCWA on 9420 7212 or visit
www.iccwa.org.au



Government of Western Australia
Department for Communities



Ends.

Media contact: Deborah Costello - CEO, ICCWA (08) 9420 7212/0408 900 448 or email
dcostello@iccwa.org.au.

Photo opportunity: Exhibition Opening 12 noon Friday 8 April please RSVP to Jade Stott at ICCWA on 9420 7212 or jstott@iccwa.org.au