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Chris Peck, Shelley O'Brien, Marina Johns, Deborah Costello, Beth Jackson and Shaun Nannup celebrate winning an award for their contribution to suicide prevention.

National award for awareness project

A SOUTH West project has won a national award for its contribution to suicide prevention.

The Injury Control Council of WA's Understanding and Building Resilience Project was named winner of the 2009 Healthy Communities LIFE Award, which is presented by Suicide Prevention Australia in conjunction with International World Suicide Prevention Day.

Coordinator Marina Johns said

the project was initiated in response to community concern following a cluster of suicides in 2002.

"This award gives recognition to the many organisations and community members who worked together on this project, either on community action plans or by participating in events and workshops," she said.

More than 1200 community members and workers benefited from a variety of workshops held

in towns across the region that raised awareness about suicide prevention.

Agencies, organisations and community members also developed action plans to work on suicide prevention activities.

Funding from the Department of Health and Ageing National Suicide Prevention Strategy will see a stronger focus on high risk groups such as youth, men and indigenous people.

For more information visit www.iccwa.org.au