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Worthy sacrifice: Dr Peter Flett, Chris Peck, Susan Gatti, Deborah Costello, Trisha Broadbridge and Community Safety Month patron Graeme Drew. Photo: SUPPLIED

Community effort reaps rewards

AN award-winning Norseman alcohol restriction initiative is continuing to make a difference to the culture of the region, according to key stakeholders.

The Norseman Aboriginal community, along with police, the Norseman Hotel and Population Health signed the Norseman Liquor Agreement in 2008 which involved a reduction in hours of the sale for certain types of alcoholic drinks.

The agreement resulted from a push by the local Aboriginal community to address excessive alcohol consumption in the town.

Norseman Hotel licensee Claye Polletti said he could not turn the

Aboriginal community down, as it had addressed the problem head-on.

"The local Aboriginal people in town wanted to do something about it, so they approached Population Health who approached me," he said.

"How can you not help out?"

Mr Polletti said he believed the business sacrifice he had made had been worthwhile as he has seen a shift in Norseman's drinking culture.

"It's affected my business a little bit, but it's done a lot of good in this town," he said.

"Alcohol has affected a lot of people around here in the past and

it's good to know this has done some good in the community."

Local police officer Sergeant Mark Tobiassen said he also believed the accord was working well in the region.

"There has been a difference in terms of the number of people involved in antisocial behaviour," he said. "It has certainly been a good thing for us."

The parties to the agreement were honoured with the Community Injury Prevention award by the Injury Control Council of WA for its efforts in reducing antisocial behaviour and alcoholism last year.

RANIA SPOONER

rania.spooner@kalminer.com.au