



CAN WA

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Minister John Day MLA launches *Beats, Breaks and Skills*

The young people of Armadale and Midland have been learning some impressive new artistic skills in circus, drumming and break dancing workshops run by the Community Arts Network WA (CAN WA) on Friday and Saturday nights.

Beats, Breaks and Skills is an arts based youth engagement pilot program, which aims at engaging young people between the ages of 10 and 16 years of age in positive activities in their local area. The project also aims at decreasing the number of these young people unaccompanied in Northbridge and engaging in antisocial behaviour on a Friday and Saturday night.

Workshops commenced February 2010 and have taken place at the Midland PCYC/Swan Park Leisure Centre and the Champion Lakes Christian Church in Armadale. From discussions with stakeholders, facilitators, participants and local communities it is clear that the program has been a success, fulfilling the project aims.

The project has improved the young participants' artistic and social skills with many of the young people commenting on their own increased self-esteem and leadership skills. Statistics provided by the Young People in Northbridge Group also show that the numbers of young people unaccompanied in Northbridge late at night has reduced over the first half of this year.

CAN WA produced the *Beats, Breaks and Skills* documentary to evaluate the pilot project by capturing interviews with the young participants, facilitators, youth workers and coordinators. The documentary clearly calls for on going arts based youth engagement programs in Armadale and Midland in the future.

The *Beats, Breaks and Skills* documentary is being launched by the Honourable John Day MLA this Saturday 3 July at the Northbridge Community Piazza Building at 10.30am. The documentary will then be screened on the large screen at the Northbridge Piazza at 12noon.

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