

for immediate release
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Youth arts partnership receives Award

Community Arts Network WA (CAN WA) in partnership with the City of Gosnells were awarded the Toyota Community Award for the Risky Bizness youth arts program at the 2010 WA Australian Business and Arts Foundation (AbaF) Awards on 8 September at Government House.

Risky Bizness is an education program that explores the dangers and consequences of risky behaviours in young people using the artistic mediums of drama and film. Topics such as speeding, underage drinking and drug use have been explored with young people from the Maddington and Kenwick areas.

This three-year partnership aimed to engage young people who are at risk of not accessing further education or employment through the arts as a means to come together and explore their experiences, and provide them with CAN WA's nationally recognised training courses for future employment and education.

'We are committed to working with disadvantaged young people through community arts and vocational education programs and provide them with opportunities for their future,' said Pilar Kasat, Managing Director of CAN WA.

'Risky Bizness is an excellent example of the power of community arts to engage those most at risk and disadvantaged in our community.'

Six short films (available here: <http://vimeo.com/album/122858>) have been created during the partnership, and are now used as an education resource in schools. Evaluations of this program have revealed that the WA Police have reported decreases in some of the behaviours highlighted in the film such as hoon driving in the Maddington/Kenwick areas.

'Giving young people a chance to be involved in educating other young people is a powerful way to get an important message across.' said City of Gosnells Mayor, Olwen Searle.

The partnership is now a finalist in the national AbaF Awards to be held in Sydney in October. The Risky Bizness program is also a finalist in the Most Innovative Road Safety Strategy section of the 2010 Insurance Commission of Western Australia Road Safety Awards.

About Community Arts Network WA

Community Arts Network Western Australia is the peak body for community arts and cultural development in WA. We facilitate community arts and culture funding, advocacy, youth arts and nationally recognised training programs for community wellbeing.

ENDS

See below for sample images. For media enquiries please contact:

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Image | Cr. Olwen Searle (Mayor, City of Gosnells), Mark Lauren (MD Toyota WA) and Pilar Kasat (MD CAN WA) with the Toyota Community Award | Ian Regnard



Image| Risky Bizness participants | courtesy of CAN WA