



South West Aboriginal Medical Service representatives Michelle Munns and Dr Julie Owen are developing a new partnership with Jobs South West consultants Angela Ansell and Posy Barnes to bring new opportunities to indigenous people. PICTURE: PAUL VERHAGEN

Health projects get a boost

AN indigenous health and lifestyle project run by Jobs South West has received \$8000 from the State Government as part of a \$640,000 community education project.

The government awarded grants under three schemes which were aimed at increasing participation and diversity in adult community education, the Pave the Way Scheme and the Building Diversity Scheme.

Bunbury Pathways '92 Inc and the South West Women's Health and Information Centre also received more

than \$6000 for a project titled Learning Emotional Self-Defence.

Jobs South West was also the recipient of a \$26,450 grant towards the You Steer Your Life project.

Chief executive Posy Barnes said the indigenous health and lifestyle project was established after the company noticed a gap in the market for Aboriginal training.

"Part of our mission is to provide education to the more disadvantaged in our community," Ms Barnes said.

"Aboriginal people are disadvantaged when it comes to health."

She said the program would teach Aboriginal people important life skills such as learning to shop for healthy food and cook nutritious meals for the family.

The course runs over 10 sessions and people can choose to take part in some or all of the sessions.

South West Aboriginal Medical Services manager Michelle Munns said the course was important to the Aboriginal community because of the high incidence of diabetes and other health issues.