

Stand Up Conference

Jobs South West delivered its inaugural Get Up Stand Up Conference in Bunbury on 20th September 2007. The event was a huge success with in excess of 100 people attending. We chose mentoring as a theme for the conference as this is a relatively neglected topic when it comes to professional development and a model of service delivery that Jobs South West uses extensively for the delivery of its contracts. In putting together the conference our objective was to showcase mentoring as a valuable model of youth service delivery.

We were exceptionally fortunate to secure both Interstate and Perth based keynote speakers whose knowledge, skills and practise in the field of mentoring and disability training is second to none. Furthermore our local extraordinary stories inspired the audience and proved that with help hope and tenacity people can make great changes in their lives.

Keynote speakers included:

Neil Carver-Smith has been a trainer with a special interest in group work, child protection and mentoring for more than 20 years, working in Australia and the UK.

Stephen Flanagan is Australia's leading health and fitness expert (who can probably give us all some tips!). His effective training methods have impacted corporate executives and drug addicts alone, using health to overcome bad habits and improve lives.

Kathleen Vella is the executive officer of the Youth Mentoring Network. She has extensive experience in the area of community welfare and has previously run holiday camps for disadvantaged youth and group homes for adults with intellectual disabilities.

As director of the Australian Leadership Academy, **Ken Perris** is well qualified to speak about the development of leadership capacity of parents, particularly those who children with special needs.

The following speakers delivered personal stories in a section entitled 'Extraordinary Stories':

Dale Alcock is a name synonymous with quality home building. Dale started out as a bricklayer and has gone on to be director of Australia's leading home building group.

Albie Lyons is a young man who was savagely assaulted a year ago, resulting in a severe brain injury. He's here today to share his story of courage and survival.

Ruth McCourt is a mother of five including one child with disabilities. She will be telling the story of how her daughter was able to make the successful transition to independent living.

Gemma Backshall has gone from high school drop out to winner of the 2006 Trainee of the Year award and will be sharing about what it took to succeed.

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