

Media Release: 29 September 2009



Choose Respect Launch Calls on Champions

Choose Respect is calling on the community of the City of Bunbury to become 'Champions' this spring by participating in their launch on Saturday October 10, 2009.

The Choose Respect initiative is based on a simple code that encourages everyone to treat each other with care and consideration.

To find out more about Choose Respect community members can join in the celebrations at Paisley Square (Corner of Stephen and Arthur St) on October 10, 2009 from 10am to 2pm.

The Choose Respect event will help raise awareness of the Choose Respect initiative in Bunbury.

Creator of Choose Respect Gary Butcher said the event will be a great opportunity for the people of Bunbury to talk to the Choose Respect Management team about how we can all work together to make Bunbury a Choose Respect city.

"A Choose Respect city would be a place where everyone treated each other with care and consideration which would mean there would be less crime and we could all live in a happier, safer and healthier environment.

"Tolerance and understanding would be the norm, not the exception.

"At the event you can pick up a Choose Respect wrist band or put your handprint on the Choose Respect banner to show your support."

In November 2008 Bunbury MLA John Castrilli announced that Choose Respect would receive \$160,000, over the next four years, to be implemented in Bunbury.

The funding has enabled Choose Respect to employ a part-time Project Facilitator to support the roll out of Choose Respect across Bunbury.

In April 2009 the City of Bunbury endorsed Choose Respect which will help Bunbury become the first Choose Respect city.

Choose Respect was developed in schools to encourage students to treat others with more respect and consideration. It offers an alternative to the culture which leads to students seeking revenge or pay-back and can result in a cycle of bullying and violence.

Choose Respect has been implemented in Boddington and research showed it helped to bring different sectors of the community together and led to a 90 per cent reduction in student behavioural referrals to administration.

Carey Park Primary School started implementing Choose Respect in February 2007. It has been an overwhelming success with students and teachers embracing Choose Respect. Carey Park Primary School principal Peter Rigden believes Choose Respect has resulted in a positive change in the whole school community.

For more information on the Choose Respect event e-mail Sarah-Jane Smith sarah-jane.smith@chooserespect.com

For more information on the creation of Choose Respect visit the website www.chooserespect.com

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