

Media Release: 16 March 2010



RESPECT A SIGN OF THE TIMES IN TREENDALE

Treendale is one of the first estates in the Bunbury area to show their support for the Choose Respect initiative by putting up a Choose Respect sign.

When Treendale Managers Terry and Kevin Coote heard about Choose Respect they agreed that it was synonymous with the type of community they were trying to establish in Treendale.

The Choose Respect train is beginning to roll in Australind and local schools are starting to come on line.

Choose Respect Bunbury Project Facilitator Sarah-Jane Smith said that Australind Primary School started implementing the Choose Respect initiative last year and Australind High School teachers have listened to a Choose Respect presentation. Other local schools have shown an interest in the Initiative.

Local sporting associations have also seen the value in this Initiative. The Australind and Harvey Junior Soccer Associations have voted to adopt Choose Respect and have started handing out Choose Respect information to their coaches.

Choose Respect was initially developed in schools to encourage students to treat others with more care 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 is now being rolled out in local organisations and businesses across Bunbury in a bid to become the first Choose Respect city.

"Treendale is a relatively new and modern community, the township is free from graffiti and we haven't had any trouble with theft," Mr Coote said.

"We feel that by encouraging our residents to treat each other with care and consideration we can help keep Treendale this way and further develop the community spirit of Treendale.

“We’d also really like to get behind the local schools that are coming on board with this initiative as many of their students and teachers live in Treendale. This will help to reinforce the schools commitment to the Initiative.”

Background

The Choose Respect Code of Behaviour encourages everyone to make a conscious effort to:

- Treat others with Respect, no matter how they treat you.
- Treat yourself with Respect.
- Forgive others who do not treat you with Respect.
- Apologise when you do not treat others with Respect.
- Support others who are not being treated with Respect.
- Ask for Support when others do not treat you with Respect.

Carey Park Primary School started implementing Choose Respect in February 2007. It has been an overwhelming success with students and teachers embracing Choose Respect.

Since introducing Choose Respect Carey Park Primary School has seen a 35% reduction in bullying and a 40% reduction in negative behaviour at the school.

Choose Respect the brainchild of the now Managing Director of the Choose Respect Network Gary Butcher, explains what a Choose Respect City might look like:

“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.”

For more information on Choose Respect in Bunbury 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

-Ends-

Contact:

Sarah-Jane Smith

Tel: 0409 167 804

E-mail: sarah-jane.smith@chooserespect.com

www.chooserespect.com