

# John Castrilli MLA



## Representing the people of Bunbury

### **RESPECT – Where has it gone?**

In recent times we have had an outcry from people and businesses sick of the occurrences of vandalism and graffiti. At my regular community meetings I hold throughout the suburbs, a common theme is that people have had enough of hoons and anti-social behaviour.

Basically, it all boils down to a lack of respect within our community. Both a lack of respect for others and property, and also a lack of respect for one-self.

I have constantly been asked “What can we do about this trend?”

In 2007, Carey Park School took up the gauntlet and became the first school in our region to adopt the Choose Respect initiative. I have met with the Principal of Carey Park School a number of times and I am buoyed by the results of the new culture that has been borne within the school.

This Choose Respect initiative was developed by Armadale High School chaplain Gary Butcher, and its success has seen it be adopted in 18 schools throughout WA with another 35 schools registering interest. So successful has it been in some areas, whole communities have adopted the initiative and are “reclaiming” a level of respect.

I am passionate about building a better future and have invited Gary Butcher to Bunbury to assist me conduct a Choose Respect Information Forum in March. My vision is for Bunbury to become the first “Choose Respect City”.

For this to be successful, schools, businesses, sporting organisations and the wider community need to come on board and work together to make a difference. Perhaps it is the answer to the question – “What can we do?”

From other examples, the changes are slow, but definite. Particularly in the younger kids, the culture of “To Treat with Care and Consideration” is becoming part of their language, their behaviour and their actions. It is this generation that are our future, and I believe that the ripple effect can occur.

I invite and encourage all members of our community to become involved in the CHOOSE RESPECT initiative. The Forum will be held on Wednesday 5th March at 7pm at the RSL Hall, Spencer Street.

Please call my office to register your interest or to find out more.

### **CHOOSE RESPECT**

**Fostering a ‘culture of respect in our community’**

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