

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

More foster carers still needed

The Department for Child Protection's campaign to recruit 250 new foster carers across WA has received more than 1000 enquiries to date.

However I would like to remind people that there is still a need for more foster carers in Bunbury and the South West.

There are currently more than 3000 children in the care of the State and this is expected to increase to about 4000 by 2011.

There are more than 900 general foster carers, who are not related to children in their care, registered with the Department for Child Protection.

Foster carers provide children from backgrounds of abuse or neglect with a chance for a healthy and happy childhood in a safe and loving home.

The aim is to boost the number towards 1200 general foster carers.

More full-time carers are needed, as well as people who can provide occasional care and also a smaller number who can offer specialised care for children with complex needs.

For more information call the Foster Care Hotline on 1800 024 453 or go to www.childprotection.wa.gov.au

Nominate outstanding teachers

Bunbury has some fantastic teachers who do an amazing job educating and inspiring young people and now is the time to recognise their achievements as nominations for the 2009 WA Education Awards are now open.

This year the award feature several categories for individuals and schools:

- Premier's Teacher of the Year
- Principal of the Year
- School Support Staff Member of the Year
- Literacy School of the Year
- Numeracy School of the Year
- Science School of the Year

Teaching is a challenging yet rewarding profession and these awards recognise the positive impact that outstanding teachers have on the education and future potential of our community's young people.

More information and nomination forms are available online at det.wa.edu.au/waeducationawards

Help available when 'nature calls'

This week is national Continence Awareness Week.

While incontinence may be difficult to discuss, it is a problem affecting quality of life for 1 in 5 Australians.

After several years of calling for action, I was pleased when an incontinence subsidy was introduced in WA in 2007.

This subsidy assists with the cost of incontinence pads, but raising awareness of incontinence is still important.

While incontinence can be managed, treated and sometimes cured, statistics show that 50 per cent of sufferers do not discuss their problem, even with their doctor.

Advice is available from trained continence nurse advisors through a national helpline on 1800 330 066.

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