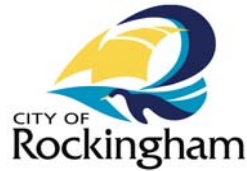


MEDIA RELEASE



March 17 2008

Mentor Program Seeks Volunteers

A new Youth Mentoring program being implemented by the City of Rockingham is looking for volunteers to act as mentors.

The mentoring program, a first for the City, has received a boost from Kwinana Industries Council (KIC), which recently became a sponsor of the initiative.

“Mentors and positive role models have long been recognised as a powerful agent for change in young people’s lives,” said Mayor of Rockingham Barry Sammels.

“Good quality mentoring really works, and we know it can make a real difference to the lives of young people, by re-connecting them to school, training or employment.

“It also gives young people positive role models in their community and my thanks go to the thousands of people who give up their time each year to support a young person.

“A mentor is an individual, usually older, always more experienced, who helps and guides another individual’s development and we would love to hear from individuals who believe they can make a difference in a young person’s life.

“My thanks extend to the KIC for their generous support in helping launch this positive program for our City,” he said.

KIC Director Chris Oughton said industry hoped members of the community would assist the youth program by taking up the mentoring challenge.

“KIC is supporting a number of youth initiatives in the Kwinana-Rockingham region, but this is the first that seeks to bring the community together in this way,” Mr Oughton said.

“We congratulate the City of Rockingham for taking an innovative approach to re-connecting youth to school, training or employment.”

The Department for Communities first made the mentoring program possible through its Youth Grants WA Program, who provided \$35,000 of funding.

The Youth Mentor Program is expected to be launched during the first weekend of April.

For those interested in finding out how they can contribute positively to the life of a young person or for more information about the Youth Mentor Program, contact Arbie Pattiselanno on 9528 8694 or apattiselanno@rockingham.wa.gov.au

ENDS

Caption: Rockingham Youth Mentor Program Arbie Pattiselanno briefs Mayor Barry Sammels, and KIC Director Chris Oughton on the program.