

Shire of Goomalling

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MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL AWARDED IN CHILDREN’S ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORT CARD

Council received an award in the Children’s Environment and Health Local Government Report Card in Category 6 Healthy & Safe Food for its collaboration with Goomalling Primary School (GPS) in addition to other initiatives that support healthy children.

Shire of Goomalling has developed a partnership with GPS to address barriers that affect children’s learning outcomes and participation, particularly how Council can be involved with addressing barriers of individual families whose children are becoming disengaged.

GPS was already participating in the Foodbank School Breakfast Program and saw obvious benefits in the classroom with greater student engagement; they wanted to offer the program more regularly but were restricted by their budget therefore Council allocated two staff members per week to deliver an additional day of breakfast club. Council has been participating in the program for the past eighteen two (2) years.

The program has enabled every student the opportunity to eat a healthy wholesome breakfast to start their school day, assisting with the brain development and providing essential nutrients for a busy day at school.

Clem Kerp, Chief Executive Officer says “initiatives like this aren’t possible without the passion and dedication displayed by our office staff; everyone has enjoyed developing rapport with the children and giving them the best start to their school day possible.”

Office staff members say “Our contribution is a no-brainer, thriving children produces thriving future leaders of our community. Having a chat to the kids whilst making their breakfast is a rewarding exercise and knowing we’re giving them a positive start expands beyond the school, creating a positive start in our own workplace”

Additionally, Council has already received a grant from the Department of Local Government and Communities for the development of a new community garden to engage young people and children and educate them in growing healthy, sustainable and affordable food.

**Council will be presented with the award at a ceremony in Perth, 9 December 2016.**

**Media Contact** Tahnee Bird, Community Development Officer

**Authorising Officer** Clem Kerp, Chief Executive Officer

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