



SUPPORT: The Tranter Lawyers team of Leanne Wills, Melissa Simpson, Kristy Bidner, Matthew Tranter, Leah Galé, Cath Eather, Gareth Williams, Ali Jordan and Donna McMahon dress down for Drug Awareness Day.

Picture by CATH BOWEN

Dress down for drug awareness

Businesses in the Hunter Valley are encouraged to ditch their suits and high heels for casual attire this Friday to support Hunter Life Education's Dress Down Drug Free campaign.

Tranter Lawyers in High Street, Maitland, will be taking part in the annual event that aims to raise awareness and money to prevent drug misuse and binge drinking among young people in the Hunter

Valley.

This Friday will be a special celebration as Hunter Life Education celebrates 25 years of providing local children and young people with the knowledge and skills to make healthy life choices.

Hunter Life Education executive officer David Barker said events such as this were instrumental in raising drug and alcohol awareness.

"HLE is currently focusing on the negative impacts of binge drinking among young people in the Hunter," Mr Barker said.

"We are using Dress Down Drug Free to create a dialogue and encourage the local community to be aware of these issues and see how they can contribute to combating the culture of binge drinking.

"Dress Down Drug Free has been running in the

Hunter for more than eight years and each year we received tremendous support from corporate bodies and the community as a whole.

"It is hoped the support from this year's event will surpass expectations.

"For the privilege of comfort and fun for the day, all those who dress down can make a gold coin donation at local ANZ bank branches."