



Clubs help Harold spread the message

LOCAL licensed clubs are backing an organisation that's working to send positive health messages to young people.

Hunter Life Education is a not for profit, community-based and community-funded organisation that motivates, encourages and empowers children and young people to make life choices for a healthy future, free from the harmful effects of drugs. It does this by providing relevant and innovative drug and health education in a safe and supportive environment.

A State Government program called the Community Development Support Expenditure (CDSE) requires clubs that earn over \$1 million annually in gaming machine revenue provide funding for community projects and services. In turn they receive dollar-for-dollar gaming tax deductions.

Local licensed clubs have contributed \$6500 to Hunter Life

Education, helping students receive the Life Education message.

A total of 834 primary school children in the Great Lakes local government area have attended the Life Education program in the 2008-09 funding period.

That's almost 90 per cent of enrolled primary school students.

The CDSE funding received from Great Lakes clubs ensures the delivery of Life Education programs to primary school children in the local area.

In 2008 Hunter Life Education delivered programs to over 32500 children and young people in the Hunter, Great Lakes region.

The outcomes of the Great Lakes primary school Life Education project were:

- Increased awareness of the harmful effects of drugs on the young people of the region to reduce the incidence of harm related to drug

misuse.

- Assisted to provide and develop skills and knowledge required by children and young people to make positive health choices.

- Empowered children and young people to choose a healthy future.

- 12 schools participated in the Life Education Project.

- The project subsidies increased the percentage of attendance to the Life Education programs relative to class enrolments to 91 per cent.

The Hunter Region Life Education organisation was established in 1985 and has now operated continuously in the region for over 20 years.

In 1989 the community responded to the dangers of drug misuse raising funds to build an education centre so that every young person could receive the Life Education message.



VITAL PROGRAM: Warren Flanagan, Tuncurry Bowling Club's Neridi Blankensee, Holy Name School students Michaela Johnson and Bayden Schuman, Forster Bowling Club general manager Damian Clements, Life Education educator Rebecca Clout and Club Forster general manager Peter Clarke and Healthy Harold (giraffe). Local licensed clubs have contributed \$6500 to Hunter Life Education, helping students receive the Life Education message.