



# WOCS

## Wheatbelt Organisation for Children's Services

*"Achieving Access, Equity and Sustainability for Children's Services in the Wheatbelt"*

The Wheatbelt Organisation for Children's Services (WOCS) is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation that began in July 2005, to address concerns over the long term sustainability of childcare in the rural sector of WA.

WOCS membership is made up of a diverse group of individuals throughout the Wheatbelt and beyond including, child care professionals, local government representatives, parents and community members.

### **Achievements to Date:**

- Compilation of Wheatbelt Childcare Profile 2005 document (updated 2006)
- Kulin Forum 2005 & Toodyay Conference 2006 – issues raised include: lack of child care services, lack of funding and CCB for some services, childcare regulations and expectations placed on volunteers
- Development of the proposed new models of child care to meet the needs of rural communities – the flexible rural model and the single operated child care service. A consultative paper was drawn up by DCD regarding these models. WOCS, DCD and FACSIA continue to work on this project
- Representation on both the Ministerial Child Care Advisory Committee and the Child Care Regulations Consultative Committee
- WOCS has developed a working partnership with RUCSN resulting in the appointment of a project officer funded by Lotterywest.
- Winner of the Community Service Industry Awards 2007 for Strengthening Rural and Remote Communities

### **WOCS continues to work towards:**

Whilst WOCS continues to further these achievements the organisation is also working toward,

- Obtaining more supports for volunteers managing child care services
- Raising issues and looking towards solutions regarding managing non profit services, staffing, licensing and ways to assist services and communities to achieve quality care
- Ensuring equitable access to training for staff in rural areas
- Access to either Child Care Rebate for all services or increased annual funding for services that are not eligible for CCB
- Establishing supports for the accreditation process
- Developing a reference manual for volunteer management committees
- Ensuring recognition of the difference between city and rural childcare services



## WOCS Success Story

*"Achieving Access, Equity and Sustainability for Children's Services in the Wheatbelt"*

*WOCS is a successful organisation because it not only aims to highlight the issues facing rural communities in relation to child care, the group also works toward solutions to overcome the issues.*



*WOCS emphasises the need to work with relevant government bodies and other organizations to look for ways to resolve issues. The group wants to continue collaboration with others to help in the development of our rural communities.*



*This is a proactive group working to help further enhance the communities in the Wheatbelt by developing and supporting sustainable services that help meet not only the social and well being needs of families but to also further add to the economic sustainability of rural communities.*



If you are interested in becoming a member of this vibrant community group or can offer support please contact WOCS or visit our website

### WOCS

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