



United Way Glenelg

MEDIA RELEASE

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United Way supporting teenagers to make better decisions

It is often said that teenagers believe they are invincible. Unfortunately that is not the case and decisions made during adolescence can have far reaching consequences.

United Way Glenelg's Community Fund is helping teenagers from Casterton and Heywood learn how to make better decisions by funding the SWIPE program – an interactive one day workshop aimed at reducing the number of serious injuries suffered by young people

Sixty year ten students will this week gather at Hamilton RMIT for the workshop which aims to promote strategies to avoid potentially dangerous situations.

The SWIPE program is a multi-agency collaboration and representatives from Victoria Police, Western District Health Service, Ambulance Victoria and the SES will guide the students through a real life scenario – from accident scene to rehabilitation.

Students will view a simulated crash scene, intensive care ward and rehabilitation setting to vividly demonstrate the potential outcomes of risk taking behavior.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Angelino said students would be made aware of the potentially catastrophic outcomes of poor decision making while also learning practical strategies to assist.

“Unfortunately teenagers are vastly overrepresented in injury related accidents, often experienced while under the influence of alcohol,” she said.

“This program will allow students to learn from professionals the outcomes of poor decisions but also, crucially, how to avoid them,” Ms Angelino said.

“The students who complete this program are expected to become role models for other young people, sharing the information and strategies that they have learned,” she concluded.

If the program is successful it is hoped it will be rolled out to Portland schools in the future.

The UWG Community Fund will open for applications later this year. For more information including how you can apply please contact Nicole Angelino on 0410 51 3305 or via email mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au

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