



22 September 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

BROOME SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WINNER OF 2010 CARING TOGETHER AWARD

As part of the 2010 Young People Who Care Awards, which is co-hosted by Silver Chain, Carers WA and Woodside Energy Limited, Broome Senior High School has been awarded the 'Caring Together Award' for their Aged Care Project.

Ms Sandi Passmore, Education Support Coordinator at Broome Senior High School, notes that the Aged Care Project, which began in May 2010, sees students visit an aged care facility for Indigenous seniors including those with high special needs, dementia and disabilities.

"Students spend one hour per week at the aged care facility but spend a great deal of time preparing for these visits. They are participating in 22 individual projects including art sessions, development of sensory boards, community garden therapy, beading, photo books, aromatherapy and touch sessions. Students take the time to get to know the residents, their backgrounds and their hobbies and personalise activities to them," said Ms Passmore.

"The Aged Care Project is a project within a very large Life Social Skills Program run at Broome Senior High School and we have seen that students have become self motivated; one student has even started his work place learning at the aged care facility as a result of this program! I could not be more proud of the programs, staff or the students."

Mr Michael Bowd, Silver Chain's Acting Chief Executive Officer, noted that the Young People Who Care Awards is an opportunity to recognise exceptional Western Australians aged 10 to 18 years, who provide voluntary care to in our community.

"The time and effort that has gone into this project goes above and beyond the general expectations of staff and students, and it works simply because we have young people who care and who are supported by amazing staff.

"This project enables the students to play a positive role in the lives of seniors in our community and also gives these students the opportunity to develop themselves personally. Congratulations Broome Senior High School; you should be very proud of your efforts" said Mr Bowd.

The Awards ceremony will be held at the Aboriginal Peoples Gallery, Parliament House on September 22, 2010.

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