

MEDIA RELEASE

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Generosity keeps Hype program running

Fears that the successful youth Hype program would be shut down have been alleviated today – thanks to the generosity of local mining company Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines (KCGM).

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Community and Development Services directorate recently received a phone call from KCGM expressing concerns regarding the future of the project.

Hype provides youth workers to walk the streets on Thursday nights and discuss issues with local young people considered to be "at risk".

City Community and Development Services Director Mal Osborne said with funds for the pilot version of the program now expended, tonight's (Thursday) shift for the workers on Hannan Street was set to be the last.

Re-affirming the value of the Hype Youth Worker Project and the rapport that has been developed with at-risk youths, KCGM's General Manager John Shipp confirmed KCGM would be prepared to commit \$1,000 worth of funding to enable the project to continue for another four-week period.

"We believe this pro-active program deserves support. KCGM are happy to bridge this immediate funding gap to enable the service to continue while future options are assessed properly," said Mr Shipp.

In welcoming the news, Mr Osborne said the \$1,000 commitment from KCGM will allow the project to continue at least until May, when it is expected that indications of success or otherwise will be provided from grant funding sources.

The HypeYouth Worker Project is also hopeful that during this time local businesses will acknowledge the value and consider further financial support.

To date, the program has been supported by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission, the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry and nine Hannan Street retailers.

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