



FIFO DIDO South West Support group co-ordinator Kristiana Italiano, Art Geo's Diana Roberts and artist Nicole Mickle. Picture: Becky Felstead

Art to display the FIFO experience

■ Rachel Curry

The complexities of the fly-in, fly-out lifestyle will be explored in an exciting new community art project in Busselton.

Partners, family members and friends of FIFO workers are being invited to take part in FIVE, a joint initiative from Rio Tinto and Disability in the Arts Australia.

The project takes its name from

the five regional WA communities in which it is happening — Busselton, Derby, Esperance, Geraldton and Paraburdoo.

DADAA chief executive David Doyle said the project was a way for the FIFO community to not only share emotional issues with each other, but convey them to the wider community through art.

“We want to give them an opportunity to express themselves through art participation and come to

understand the issues they face,” he said.

“They’ve got some great local networks and groups and certainly we want to give them visibility through ephemeral art and bring them together through art.”

The Busselton project is being led by Australind artist Nicole Mickle, who said the final concept for the artwork would come from themes discussed in the workshops.

Mickle said the final product would likely be an ephemeral, or temporary, artwork set within a natural environment — the forest, beach or farmland surrounding Busselton.

“It can be almost a zen experience just being in nature and working within it. Art is a great way to immerse ourselves in something new and lose ourselves from the rest of the world,” she said.

“You don’t have to be an artist

to get involved. Often people that haven’t experienced a creative project before don’t know that it’s been a missing link in their lives until they have given it a go.”

The first workshop will take place at ArtGeo on Wednesday, September 11, from 12.30pm to 3pm and attendees are asked to bring along their favourite mug.

RSVP to Jacqueline on 0400 111 018 or jacqueline@dadaa.org.au.

The artwork will be installed in or around the City of Busselton.