



Busselton Community Invited to Participate in the New FIVE Projects

Arts activities for the new statewide 'FIVE' arts and cultural project will be launched at the City of Busselton's ArtGeo Cultural Precinct on Saturday 19 October. The event will kick off at 6.30pm with a free sausage sizzle, followed by a short screening at 7.30pm of the community project *Home*, by FIVE artists Craig Walsh and Hiromi Tango.

Arts workshops will be held from 18 October to 21 November. Artistic outcomes from the workshops will be part of a public exhibition starting on 22 November 2013.

Residents from the Busselton region are invited to join one or both of the following workshops:

- Local community artist Nicole Mickle is working with fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) wives and partners in a series of ephemeral arts workshops over six weeks. Mickle will explore issues related to living the FIFO lifestyle, developed in consultation with communities and participants.
- Sculptor and performance artist Hiromi Tango will run a series of drop-in workshops that engage schools, youth groups, community organisations and the wider community to build a large-scale sculpture that will also be part of the 22 November public celebration.

As part of both workshops, highly regarded digital artist Craig Walsh will film community portraits that capture stories and impacts from the Busselton project. The digital work that he produces will be screened at the 22 November celebration.

The project is part of a two-year partnership between DADAA and Rio Tinto that will work in five Western Australian communities: Busselton, Paraburdoo, Geraldton, Derby and Esperance. Named after the number of communities, the project will build awareness around issues of mental health through a community arts and cultural development approach.

Busselton is Rio Tinto's largest FIFO hub in the State, with direct commute services to five inland mines in the Pilbara. A formal MOU signed between City of Busselton and Rio Tinto outlines the company's commitment to building social resilience in the region.

DADAA Executive Director David Doyle said that arts project in Busselton engage FIFO partners, wives, families and friends in an effort to build social connection and community resilience in the region.

"Commencement of projects in Busselton is the beginning of a journey to challenge some of the stigma around FIFO workers and experiences," said Mr Doyle. "FIVE will explore just who the FIFO community is, what they think, how they connect and what they want to say to the rest of Western Australia and Australia. We look forward to what forms their artistic practice might result in – not only in Busselton but in all our locations around the State."

City of Busselton Mayor, Ian Stubbs, said that the City was excited to be involved in the statewide project.

"FIVE is an innovative way to link regional centres facing challenges associated with a large and growing FIFO workforce," said Cr Stubbs. "We believe that this initiative will bring a host of cultural and social benefits and further strengthen the relationship between FIFO workers and families and the broader community."

Members of the FIFO and broader community are invited to attend the workshops that will run from 21 October to 21 November 2013, on Thursdays to Mondays from 11am to 4pm. For additional workshop information, email busselton@five.org.au or call (08) 9430 6616.



RioTinto

Additional Information on FIVE

The initiative supports the Mental Health Commission's Mental Health 2020 strategy, one component of which is to build peer-to-peer connection as a means of facilitating dialogue around mental health.

FIVE addresses findings from recent research noting lack of communication and social isolation as contributing factors to poor mental health – particularly amongst the State's regional communities.

A significant evaluation of FIVE will be conducted throughout the two-year pilot period. DADAA will work in partnership with researchers from Murdoch University to develop a framework for evaluation and then measure the impacts of the CACD models used on participants, organisations and communities.

A website will provide information on the project, showcase artistic and cultural outcomes and make available mental health resources.

About DADAA

DADAA is a not-for-profit community arts and cultural development (CACD) organisation, focusing on creating significant positive social change and opportunities for people with a disability or a mental illness. Based in Fremantle, DADAA offers targeted arts and cultural programs that include a broad range of traditional and new media projects in almost 50 Western Australian communities.

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