



Art project wins health award

A STATEWIDE arts and health project, partly coordinated by Australind artist Alex Mickle, was awarded a silver Achievement Award at the Mental Health Services Conference held in Perth last week.

The FIVE project won the Mental Health Promotion and Mental Illness Prevention category for its impact in reducing the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Mr Mickle's project in Paraburdoo is the longest running of five projects throughout WA.

Mental health commissioner Timothy Marney said the FIVE project helped reduce the stigma about mental health at the grass-roots level.

"Getting people to talk about mental health is the key to reducing stigma and building awareness, which is why the FIVE project is such a unique and effective initiative," he said.

FIVE is a joint project of Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia and Rio Tinto.