

Media Release: **Regional Children's Services Plan – Great Southern**

RDA Great Southern is proud to have been awarded the contract to deliver the Department for Communities Regional Children's Services Plan in the Great Southern. The Plan is a two year project which aims to develop strategic long term approaches to community managed education and care services in regional WA. The project is funded through The Regional Community Child Care Development Fund. RDA Great Southern's Executive Officer Simon Lyas said "the project provides an excellent opportunity for the RDA network to add value to key community networks across the entire region".

RDA Great Southern has appointed Regional Development Officer Janelle Price to deliver the project. During the next six months Janelle will be speaking with providers and families about their concerns, and communicating closely with six other Development Officers working throughout other regions. As well as consulting locally, online and other surveying will be available.

Janelle says she's "looking forward to working at a grass roots level to discover local innovation and initiatives in children's and family services, and this is a great opportunity for parents and service providers to have their views heard".

Once completed RDA Great Southern's on-ground work will inform a state-wide Plan; RDA regions will be planned for in the context of local considerations and the challenges faced by local communities. It is intended the WA plan will help achieve a more strategic and coordinated approach to the development of services that support families and children in regional Western Australia.

The Draft Plan is expected to be available for comment by August 2014. Provision of support for community managed regional services is a key component of the project, with a focus on recommended implementation strategies happening in the second year.

Contact Janelle on 9842 5800 or visit the RDA Great Southern website at www.rdagreatsouthern.com.au