

Media Release

Young Parents Graduate from Talking Realities Program

Five young parents will become peer educators following their graduation from the Riverland **headspace** Talking Realities Program. The young women will celebrate their achievements at the SALT Church, Waikerie, on Friday December 9th, marking an end to their six months of training.

Talking Realities is a program hosted by Riverland **headspace**, aimed at reducing the incidence of unplanned teen pregnancy through peer education. This year Riverland **headspace** has partnered with Waikerie High School Independent Learning Centre who provides flexible, supported learning options for young people through the Innovative Community Action Network (ICAN).

The young parents involved completed six units of Certificate 3 in Community Services Work. Part of their learning includes delivering a detailed banner presentation that allows them to share the realities of choosing to become a parent at a young age with High School students. This increases student ability to make informed decisions regarding their sexual health and lifestyle choices. It also provides education and employment opportunities for the young parents involved.

The latest group of graduates are aged 19-22 and are pregnant or parenting young children. They credit the training facilities (including an on site crèche) for the success of their training and have formed valuable friendships. Many of the participants have already achieved many study goals through opportunities offered by Waikerie Independent Learning Centre and are going on to further studies in the coming year.

Talking Realities is a Riverland Division of General Practice, Riverland **headspace** program. For more information please call Kerril Vowles; Manager, Riverland **headspace** on 85824422

