**SOME DOTS POINTS THAT CAN BE INCLUDED IN A LETTER TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS PROMOTING BUZ PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS**

* Over the past 12 years Nurture Works has developed an initiative called “BUZ” Build Up Zone. This initiative includes a number of practical programs for primary schools that enable children to develop positive social and emotional well being.
* With an exponential increase in the number of Chaplains now working in State primary schools it became apparent that these Chaplains were looking for skills and programs that would directly impact on the expectations of their schools to help children with their social and emotional well being.
* In 2009 YouthCARE approached Nurture Works with the view of forming a partnership to train chaplains in the BUZ Life skills (BUZOLOGY) and as facilitators of the BUZ Programs in their schools.
* This project commenced at the beginning of 2011 with the first half of the year devoted to development of the training, facilitator’s manuals and materials for the programs. The first training session wall rolled out June 2011.
* In the past 18 months 96 YouthCARE Chaplains, 7 DoE Staff, 5 Private School Staff and 11 others have completed the BUZ Core Training. Many have undergone the subsequent program training of offer. A total of 187 trained to facilitate one or more of the BUZ Programs on offer.
* So far this initiative has seen 5000 children have participate in BUZ Programs. This figure is predicted to double in 2013.
* In most schools Chaplains are in a unique role of being an extra staff person that can spend time on developing the social and emotional well being of children in the school community. Many schools have taken advantage of this and enabled opportunities for Chaplains to conduct social and emotional learning and values programs in classrooms. The Chaplains can take up the role as a specialist in this area.
* The BUZ Life Skills Programs are aimed at growing confident children in a positive environment. They enable children to develop important life skills such as, emotional competence, relationship skills, empathy and respect, conflict resolution, protective behaviours, grief management and bully-proofing.
* The beauty of the BUZ programs is that they are child friendly and children ‘get it’!
* The BUZ outcomes have direct correlation with the 9 Values for Australian Schooling and the WA Curriculum Framework Values and the ‘CASEL’ Student outcomes for social and emotional learning promoted by Kids Matter.
* The two day core training is suitable for chaplains, class teachers, pastoral care specialists, school counselors and psychologists, admin, social workers, education assistants, child care workers and parents.
* You can get further information by going to the BUZ website [www.buildupzone.com](http://www.buildupzone.com) – go to “Programs downloads” page in the menu or contact me by email: steveh@youthcare.org.au