+ – wednesday 19th July 2006.
pg. 22.

Liverpool Champion

Young women will be wiser

By Ilona Marchetta

YOUNG women will educate and offer relationship guidance to their peers as part of a new program run by the Liverpool Women's Health Centre.

The project will train and pay women aged 18-24 to visit schools across south-west Sydney to facilitate workshops on healthy and unhealthy relationships.

The project, known to its organisers as WEEO WISER (Women Educating Each Other, Women in Safe and Equal Relationships), is a first for the centre, which has worked to create it for a number of months in consultation with qualified organisations including the Fairfield Liverpool Youth Health Team.

Education project worker Sonia Hoffman has been employed specifically to coordinate WEEO WISER.

Both her position and the program were made possible through the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme.

"Research has indicated that a peer education approach can be quite effective particularly with young women," Ms Hoffman said.

"Rather than taking a different approach, for example, what teachers might do at school, a peer approach is more relevant to them [young women], it comes from a point of view of someone like them and is usually in similar language to what they would use. This is quite a serious role and the girls will be getting recognised experience."

Young women sought for the program should be able to work some weekdays between 9am and 3pm and attend a nine day training session which involves a two-day camp.

An information session on the WEEO WISER program will be held on Thursday, July 27, at the Liverpool Women's Health Centre, 26 Bathurst Street, Liverpool, 2pm-5pm. Details: Sonia Hoffman, 9601 3555.

IN BRIEF

Junior sport boost

Liverpool Council has committed a total of $25,000 to junior sport over the next 12 months as part of its Sporting Grants Program. The grants will be distributed to Bringelly Sports Club, Chipping Norton Lakes Sailing Club, Liverpool City Little Athletics, Liverpool Junior Oztag Association, Moorebank Sports Soccer Club, and Southern District Softball Association. Earlier this year, the council announced that it would receive $25,000 each year for the next four years from the Bulldogs League Club, as part of settlement arrangements regarding the termination of the former Memorandum of Understanding for the Oasis project. Sporting groups and clubs are eligible to apply for a grant under one of five categories, including sports development, ground development and education and club diversity. The independent Recreation Panel assessed the 31 grant applications received for this year's grants. For more information on the Sporting Grants Program, contact Liverpool Council on 1300 362 170 or visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

Aboriginal languages

Aboriginal languages will get a boost in Sydney's west, with a $20,000 grant from the NSW government. NSW Aboriginal Affairs Minister Milton Orkopoulos announced the grant, as part of the new Aboriginal Community Language Program, at a NAIDOC Week Civic Reception. The grant will be used to develop a Dharug language dictionary, produce a grammar book and archive audio recordings.