



Media release

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Record No: REL042/MR1377953

Date Issued: September 4 2013

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The Big Issue Going Strong in Albany

A not-for-profit magazine designed to support marginalised and disadvantaged people has gone from strength to strength since it was launched in Albany last year.

Each fortnight in Albany five vendors sell about 140 editions of The Big Issue magazine for \$6, with \$3 going directly to the vendor.

Jaxon Whitbread's confidence and social skills have been given a boost since he began selling The Big Issue several months ago at various locations around Albany, including Albany Public Library, Dog Rock Shopping Centre, York Street and the City of Albany's North Road office.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington, who sold the first copies on York Street in October last year, said the support shown for the program was a testament to Albany's community spirit.

"The Big Issue is a fantastic concept and the City of Albany is more than happy to continue supporting it in any way we can," he said.

Last year the City coordinated a working group to help make The Big Issue a reality in Albany and followed up by gaining the support of local agencies to refer people to the program, arranging for locations for vendors to sell the magazine and organising a high profile launch in the centre of Albany with Mr Wellington and then-State Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney.

Big Issue Vendor Support State Manager Jim Petrie thanked the City of Albany, local distributor Paperbark Merchants and the wider community for their support of the program.

"But mainly I'd like to thank the vendors, who are doing a fantastic job," he said.

"The whole point of The Big Issue is so that our sellers can feel part of the community, while making a bit of money as well.

"We'd love to have more vendors in Albany, so please give us a call and get involved."

For information on becoming a vendor please contact Mr Petrie on 92282711.

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