



‘Weld to Life’ a winner

THE successful Weld to Life program at Rockingham PCYC has won another award, this time winning a category of the 2011 Premier’s Awards for Excellence announced on Monday.

The program, designed by the PCYCs OIC, Senior Constable Tim Ellis in 2007, took out the 16th annual awards’ Strengthening Families and Communities category, recognising the combined work of Challenger Tafe, Rockingham PCYC and WA Police.

The program, launched to reduce crime and offending behaviour by juveniles in Rockingham

and Kwinana, was also runner-up overall Premier’s Award winner across the public sector, receiving a special Commendation for Innovation.

“Of the seven programs run from April 2008 to May 2010, offending behaviour by the 72 students enrolled was reduced by more than 90 per cent, even after 12 months of completing the course,” Snr Const Ellis said. “The success has been phenomenal. Eighty per cent of participants have pursued further training and there’s been a significant reduction in re-offending.

“Participants go from being law

breakers to contributing members of the community. This program is proof that by training young people and occupying their time in productive activity, they can be steered away from destructive behaviour.”

Believed to be the only program of its kind in Australia, the course comprises a Challenger Institute Wider Opportunities for Work (WOW) qualification with an embedded Certificate I in Engineering.

The program, supported by the Rockingham Kwinana Development Office, won the National Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award in 2009.



Students at Rockingham PCYC’s award-winning program.