

The Stanthorpe Border Post

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Underage drinkings on the rise

By ASHLEIGH BOND

TEENAGERS lacking direction are turning to the bottle in escalating numbers, Stanthorpe Police and Drug Arm services have found.

Officer in Charge Senior Sergeant Mark Ireland said he was concerned with the growing number of Stanthorpe juveniles being supplied with alcohol.

"The major problem for kids here is alcohol, it is the most readily available drug," he said.

Snr Sgt Ireland said incidents of teenagers, some as young as 13, drinking in the streets, appeared to be on the rise.

"This is something that is quite devastating to a peaceful town for kids to be given access to alcohol," he said.

"Kids haven't got a tolerance. As soon as they con-

sume alcohol they do stupid things.

"They can put themselves in danger and become victims of people who aren't intoxicated."

Snr Sgt Ireland pleaded for parents' help to detect who was supplying the alcohol.

"We ask them to take a little more responsibility to check to make sure (children) are going where they say they're going," he said.

"When they get home, be observant enough to see if they have been drinking and if they have, follow up to see where it was supplied from."

Drug Arm Stanthorpe project officer Dot Hill said alcohol was a big issue with young people in Stanthorpe.

She said the reason young people turned to alcohol and other drugs was more than just boredom.

"A lot of people start be-

Who to call:

Drug Arm:
4681 4241
Stanthorpe Police:
4681 6400

cause they have so many deep emotional issues," she said.

"They lack goals and just live from day to day."

She said youth in Stanthorpe had a lot to deal with.

"There are a lot of pressures, especially from peers," she said.

"I see young people with so much untapped energy. There's so much untapped energy."

Mrs Hill reminded residents Drug Arm services were available for alcohol and other drug related problems.

"We're here to support people and the significant others in their life," she said.



Drug Arm national fundraising coordinator Peter Wotherspoon and Stanthorpe project officer Dot Hill are trying to raise awareness of the services Drug Arm offer.

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