



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday, 19 February 2019**

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### **SWAMS and AFL Legend join forces to create Aboriginal Youth Twilight Festival**

South West Aboriginal Medical Services (SWAMS) and Crimestoppers have joined forces to deliver an Aboriginal Youth Festival to Bunbury.

Crimestoppers ambassador Daniel Kerr is a key organiser of the event, and will be attending alongside other ex- and current-footballers who will be running the event to get the whole community involved and active. The event will include five stations for youth to participate in such as football, soccer, teeball, nutrition and a giant "Slip and slide".

Along with the message about the benefits of participating in sport and art programs, participants will hear about Crimestopper's new "Dob in a Dealer" program. The program encourages communities and their members to provide information to police to enable them to conduct operations targeting criminals and organised crime gangs responsible for the manufacture and / or supply of drugs. Participants will learn of the damage drugs can cause and that that Crimestoppers is a safe and secure way to share information about drug activity to police.

"Substance use contributes significantly to higher rates of chronic disease, injury, violence and the rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with other social and health related issues in our community." Says SWAMS CEO, Lesley Nelson.

"Our hope is that with this Youth Festival, we can make our youth aware that there is a safe space for this discussion, and educate youth and empower them to change the narrative." She continues.

The Youth Festival will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February from 3-7pm at Carey Park Football Club.

**For more information on the Youth Twilight Festival please contact the SWAMS Clinic on (08) 9726 6000, or the toll free number on 1800 779 000.**

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**Photo captions here:**

**L-R: Crimestoppers, Craig Somerville, , SWAMS CEO, Lesley Nelson and AFL Great and Crimestoppers ambassador, Daniel Kerr**

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**For media enquiries please contact SWAMS Public Relations Officer Cassandra Budge on (08) 9791 1166.**