

## **THE MAI-WEL GROUP WELCOMES XSTRATA COAL TO HELP FILL GAP**

The Mai-Wel Group is pleased to announce Xstrata Coal as key supporter of their 'Leisure and Recreational Activities Program' with a recent donation of \$20,000 towards the program which aims to increase positive activities and influences in the lives of young people with a disability.

Xstrata Coal's involvement and support will now enable The Mai-Wel Group to provide between 30 and 40 young people with regular monthly outings and activities for 12 months. Whilst similar weekend and holiday programs exist in the community, the 'Leisure and Recreational Activities Program' will be offered to those who currently do not benefit from any government funding or programs.

"This donation will enable trained support workers and volunteers to join this group as positive role models, creating a positive and uplifting experience in their young lives," said CEO of The Mai-Wel Group, Mrs Pennie Kearney.

"The Leisure and Recreation Activities Program aims to provide vital skills and experience to clients throughout the Hunter and Upper Hunter regions of NSW, specifically in and around the Maitland and Singleton area, to make social and moral choices in their lives" she said.

With the group comprising mostly of young men in their teens and early twenties, the dedication and vision to see this program come to fruition is spurred by the desire to remove young men from the lure of inappropriate social networks, and risky behaviour, ever present in today's community.

Xstrata Coal's Glendell Operations Manager Tony Israel said, "Xstrata Coal is committed to making a positive and significant difference within the communities in which it operates and we are proud to support The Mai-Wel Group to help improve the lives of people with a disability in the Hunter region".

As one of the larger Disability Service Providers in the Lower Hunter Region, The Mai-Wel Group provides programs and activities which aim to advance the lives of people with a disability, break down isolation barriers and increase social inclusion providing access, integration and opportunity for all.

**For further information or interview requests please contact Eclipse Media and Events on  
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