

Ronald W Woss Pledges \$200,000 to new Youth Focus Campaign

Her Excellency, The Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO;
The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi;
Fellow Guests,

Twenty One years ago, Peter Fitzpatrick and I decided to tackle the problem of Youth Suicide in WA.

I settled a Charitable Trust with Youth Focus as its business name. Mrs Marlene Jeffery, the wife of the then Governor of WA; Michael Jeffery, became Youth Focus' inaugural patron.

Initially we received funding from the State Government of WA, Lottery West and both the Woss and McCusker families.

Our annual turnover then, was less than \$100,000.

There were only two full time staff at the beginning. Compare that to today.

Youth Focus now has a staff of around 90 people and turns over more than \$8 million.

In 1994 we were able to help around 50 individuals and families.

Last year we provided intensive support to 2,000 young people and their families.

I am proud to say that Youth Focus has changed the lives of more than 15,000 young people since its inception.

However, the problem of Youth Suicide is not diminishing.

With the down turn in the economy, we now will struggle to maintain existing services without additional financial support.

I was honoured to be named Youth Focus's Inaugural Life Member upon retiring as Chairman in the year 2000. Establishing Youth Focus and seeing it grow to what it is today, is one of the most important achievements of my business life.

Because of this, The Woss Family has pledged \$200,000 to launch this new Fundraising Campaign.

I hope that my many friends and business peers will join me, to ensure the very worthy services of Youth Focus can continue during these difficult times.

Please be generous when Jenny Allen contacts you.

Thank you all for you attendance this evening.

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