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# Drug group to create plan

## HEALTH

BY ERIN WITMITZ

### Region

THE Wimmera Drug Action Taskforce is calling for residents to have their say on alcohol and other drug issues in the region.

Co-ordinator Sally Pymmer said the taskforce was a group of organisations and community members working across Horsham Rural City and Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh and West Wimmera municipalities.

She said the aim of the group was to minimise the harms of alcohol and other drugs in the community.

"Horsham Rural City Council is also delivering an initiative Youth Changing Alcohol Norms, or Youth CAN," she said.

"The project is funded by VicHealth and is working to change the culture that young people have with alcohol."

Ms Pymmer said the taskforce was running a survey across the region.

"Findings from the survey will help the Wimmera Drug Action Taskforce develop a Wimmera community action plan that identifies activities, projects and initiatives that we will all be responsible for making happen," she said.

"The survey is aimed at the parents, grandparents and all caregivers, but all community members are encouraged to complete the survey."

"The more we hear from the community the stronger the action plan will be."

Ms Pymmer said the survey

could be done anonymously. "Participants providing their contact details will go in the draw to win movie tickets," she said.

"All information will be treated confidentially and no identifying information will be kept."

Ms Pymmer said the survey was a new initiative for the group.

"We haven't run any sort of survey in the past few years since I have been employed as the co-ordinator," she said.

Ms Pymmer said the sur-

vey was available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L57DCR6>. She said people could also follow the links from the Wimmera Drug Action Taskforce Facebook page.

The survey will be open until April 13.

Ms Pymmer said for more information, people could email her on [sally.p@grammianscommunityhealth.org.au](mailto:sally.p@grammianscommunityhealth.org.au) or call 53621200.

Horsham Rural City's Youth CAN will address unhealthy drinking habits in the region. Council community services director Kevin O'Brien said there was a culture of risky teen drinking in Horsham that needed to change.

He said the project hoped to convince parents to stop supplying their children with alcohol.

"The project seeks to reduce pressure to drink, provide young people with alternatives to high-risk drinking and to shift perceptions that the purpose of parties is to drink excessively," he said.