

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
4 April 2016

CONSTABLE CARE CHILD SAFETY FOUNDATION LAUNCHES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS IN WA

Constable Care Child Safety Foundation will today unveil a new theatre-in-education program for schools to tackle the growing statistics surrounding domestic violence in WA at an exclusive stakeholder preview at the WA Ballet Centre.

The Foundation will showcase its new secondary school production, *Control Freak*, by Theatrical Response Group (TRG), the youth performance arm of the Foundation formed in 2014 to address social issues affecting WA's teenagers. Through the TRG program and the use of forum theatre, young people are provided with the opportunity to develop and rehearse responses to social scenarios they may face outside the classroom such as isolation, cyber bullying, peer pressure, alcohol, drugs and exposure to domestic violence.

Last September, domestic violence was made a national priority by the Australian Government and TRG's newest performance addresses this confronting issue by focussing on averting the behaviours that lead to violent relationships. The four-actor play has been devised in consultation with a panel of leading experts in the field of domestic violence prevention including Dr Colleen Fisher (Head of School of Health at University of WA), staff from Patricia Giles Centre (Women's Refuge) and the WA Police Family and Violence State Coordination Unit.

Provocative, confronting and authentic, *Control Freak* highlights the small controlling behaviours that can lead to serious domestic violence crimes later in life. The skilled TRG actors interact with the youth audience to generate an open dialogue which ultimately devises alternative solutions to controlling behaviour in order to build positive, healthy relationships.

Constable Care Child Safety Foundation CEO, David Gribble, explains "There is a great need for education surrounding controlling behaviours and we are proud to be one of the only organisations providing this teaching to prevent the horrific domestic violence crimes we see in society today. The messages within this program will make a significant difference to the lives of young people across the state."

Our new performance is only one of the many exciting additions to our growing brand as we continue to champion the child safety sector in Western Australia. We have just launched our new overarching brand identity and website that better outlines the extensive work we do throughout the state, work has commenced on the construction of WA's first Road and Transport Safety School, and we are

currently running a competition for secondary students calling for creative storyline submissions to tackle the growing mental health issues facing youth in society today.

Since the Foundation's first beginnings in 1989, over 2 million children and youth have benefited from the award winning child safety harm prevention programs designed to not only educate but encourage young people to think for themselves, to be safe and act responsibly.

- END -

For images, interviews or for further information, please contact:

Suzy Curtis – Communications and Corporate Relations Coordinator
The Constable Care Child Safety Foundation
9272 0004 or suzy@cccsf.org.au

Notes to editors

- Constable Care Child Safety Foundation is a registered harm prevention charity that delivers award winning safety education programs free of charge to school students throughout Western Australia.
- The Foundation continues to support the growing needs of children, youth and families by developing ongoing programs and products relevant to the challenges faced by our youth to ensure a safer, brighter future for those living in Western Australia.
- Constable Care Child Safety Foundation celebrated 25 years of service in 2014. It was established in 1989 by Sergeant Ross Pengilly and launched by WA Police.
- Free services provided include; Constable Care Pre-school to Year 6 educational puppet and actor shows, Theatrical Response Group interactive performances and intensive workshops for Years 7 to 12 and Comfort Packs for children in distress or at-risk youth.
- The Constable Care Child Safety Foundation provides best practice, Lost Child Points – a meeting point service and a safe refuge for children, should they become separated from their parents or guardians at major events in WA.
- Constable Care Child Safety Foundation also hosts the Constable Care Child Safety Awards, an independent event created to celebrate the endeavours of individuals, communities, corporate organisations, emergency services professionals, local government or state government agencies and education programs, which protect children and young people from harm, and promote a safer Western Australia for our youngsters.