

Scholarships a boost for SW organisations

SOUTH West community and not-for-profit organisations benefited from the Alcoa Foundation Sustaining Local Communities Governance Scholarships last week.

Representatives from the South West Development Commission, South West Academy of Sport, South West Health and South West Regional Football Development branch and Fire and Emergency Services Authority participated in the three-day program.

The program aimed to provide practical skills, knowledge and resources to promote improved governance and direction, bringing together the strengths of Australia's leading training providers Our Community and BSI Learning.

The scholarships involved undertaking a Certificate IV in Business (Governance).

Normally valued at \$2000 each, the scholarships were fully funded by the Alcoa Foundation through its national partnership with Our Community.

South West Academy of Sport chief executive Bernice Butlion said it was a comprehensive course.

"I found the course content very relevant to my work. Sometimes in a small organisation you can question your ability and this course reaffirmed the work I undertake on a day-to-day basis," she said.

"It was also a very good networking opportunity and I found everyone very positive and the interaction amongst the participants was excellent."

Wagerup Refinery manager Eugenio Azevedo said the scholarship program had been delivered at an ideal time.

"It provided an ideal opportunity for a volunteer or staff member from one of our local community partners to improve their skills and take that knowledge back into the region," he said.

"Building capacity through training is so important, yet it's often one of the first things to be cut when times are challenging."