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### **Supporting Albany's at-risk youth through the arts**

The Albany Youth Support Association recently received \$100,000 in Healthway funding to support an arts program targeting at-risk youth.

The funding, which runs over two years, will promote the Act-Belong-Commit health message at the Open Access Youth Arts Studio program.

The program is aimed at young people who experience a range of challenges including homelessness and family and relationship breakdown.

It provides a safe space for young people to participate in arts like music, multimedia, and painting, while developing positive coping strategies with support from youth workers.

Healthway's CEO Susan Hunt PSM, said Healthway is proud to support this successful program, which is contributing to the health and wellbeing of young people.

"This fantastic program creates a place where Albany's young people can positively connect with others, learn new skills, and seek the support they need," Ms Hunt said.

"The program also encourages participants to engage with the community by exhibiting their artwork and holding musical performances."

Albany Youth Support Association CEO Ian Clarke APM, said the funding creates exciting opportunities for young people in the Great Southern.

"All forms of art have proven to be a great therapeutic and engagement tool for working with young people," Mr Clarke said.

"The new Youth Centre provides an excellent venue for the delivery of these programs, and we look forward to expanding the creative opportunities for everyone involved in the programs."

To find out more visit [www.aysa.org.au](http://www.aysa.org.au).

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