



## **STUDENTS TO LOOK AT MENTAL ILLNESS ISSUES**

**23 October 2007**

Five volunteer presenters from the Black Dog Institute are to conduct presentations at five Bathurst Secondary schools to raise awareness of mental health issues.

The presentations are scheduled for the week beginning 29 October to 1 November.

The volunteer presenters are part of the INSIGHT program that is available to secondary schools across New South Wales. Bathurst schools participating in the presentations are: Bathurst and Kelso Campus of Denison College; MacKillop College; St Stanislaus College and The Scots College.

The Bathurst presentations are sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bathurst.

This is the sixth year that the Rotary Club has sponsored these presentations in Bathurst.

The volunteer presenters this year are: Patricia Muzzio, Jann Trosser, Judy Myers, Kate Sketchley and Katrina Morrow from Sydney.

In addition to the school presentations, the Black Dog Institute Youth Education and Outreach Officer, SarahKate Abercrombie, will speak at the weekly meeting of Bathurst Rotarians on the evening of 30 October.

The Black Dog Institute is a clinical, research, education and community based organisation dedicated to increasing understanding of mood disorders. Over the past 12 months the Institute has intensified its efforts in rural areas to assist those individuals and families coping with mood disorders.

“The INSIGHT program is delivered by specially selected and trained presenters who have personal experiences with mental health problems and disorders within their families,” according to SarahKate.

“In talking with secondary school students, we are able to personalise the face of mental illness and encourage young people to recognise potential mental health problems and access help for themselves and friends.”

“The previous presentations had been delivered by MIE–A (NSW) (Mental Illness Education–Australia) which in August became part of the Black Dog Institute.”

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information and to arrange interviews, please contact SarahKate Abercrombie on (M) 0434142971