



Mall shoppers stop to listen to Anne Sargeant and enjoy a free sausage sizzle

VOICES urge open views on addiction

FORMER netball champion Anne Sargeant visited Blacktown last week to launch a program that aims to encourage people to talk about their addictions to alcohol, other drugs and gambling.

Shoppers in the mall last Monday stopped as Ms Sargeant and Blacktown Mayor Jim Anderson launched VOICES: Supporting families in talking about alcohol, other drugs and gambling.

The project, run by Blacktown Health Promotion Unit, aims to decrease the shame associated with these problems and promote understanding and communication of the issues.

Ms Sargeant and Mr Anderson expressed their views on the subject.

VOICES co-ordinator Tirrania Suhood explained that alcohol, other drugs and gambling were issues for the whole community.

They affected not only the person with the problem but also family and friends, she said.

The presentation was accompanied with entertainment provided by Doonside Technology High School, which included music and dance.

A free sausage sizzle was supplied.