

# Youth gets voice at drugs summit

by CHRISTIAN NICOLUSSI

THE youth of Blacktown will have a chance to voice its concerns and opinions on drugs at a free forum on Wednesday next week at Terra Sancta College.

D'Fest is being organised by Nirimba TAFE students completing the Community Services Youth Work diploma along with the locally-based community group, Bridges.

Organisers are hoping to see more than 300 young people attend.

Short skits giving snapshots of different situations will be presented by students from Wyndham College and the Western Sydney Adolescence Team (WAAT).

"It's about having less talk and more action," Nirimba youth work diploma teacher and D'Fest organiser Ros Leahy said.

"It's about being able to have a genuine say, not having people formalise it too much."

Ms Leahy said roving microphones during the skits

will make it easy for people to speak out.

Ms Leahy also said: "The biggest message in drugs is the reason people take drugs ... Drugs are a response to other things going on in people's lives."

Apart from the skits, it will feature a graffiti art space, free food and performances by the Penrith Panthers cheerleading squad.

For details, call Ms Leahy on 9208 7003.



Nirimba TAFE students (clockwise from front left) Dave Stone, Jeremie Kerridge, Liz Tomkins and Ros Leahy are organising a drug forum

Collaborating with TAFE and Bridges to produce D'Fest

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