

# CITY NEWS

## Social worker awarded convention scholarship



*Dr Ann O'Neill receives her award from Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi.*

**A victim of crime who has dedicated her life to supporting other victims has been awarded this year's City of Perth \$10,000 professional development scholarship.**

Dr Ann O'Neill - the co-founder and Director of Angelhands, a community organisation dedicated to victims of serious crime – was presented with her scholarship by Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi at a breakfast function at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

The scholarship is awarded under the Perth Convention Bureau's annual professional development scholarship program, which also embraces Perth's five leading universities.

In her role as Director of Angelhands, Dr O'Neill counsels, advocates and champions the needs and rights of crime victims within the community. She is also the secretary of Victim Support Australia.

She plans to put the scholarship funding to a number of uses, including attendance at two conferences, the Australian National Victims of Crime Conference later this month and the American-based National Office Victims Assistance Conference in Philadelphia in August.

At these events Dr O'Neill plans to canvass support for Perth to host the Australian National Victims of Crime Conference in 2013 and the International Victimology Symposium in either 2015 or 2018.

The Lord Mayor said Dr O'Neill was a 'truly worthy recipient' of the City of Perth Scholarship, which she said was designed to recognise and reward a deserving individual who is making a valuable contribution to the community.

Bureau Managing Director Christine Allen said that the scholarship program had been responsible for generating convention business worth more than \$80 million to the Western Australian economy since being launched in 1999.

"The program is a win-win situation for the Bureau," she added. "We're delighted to assist in the professional development of our academic community, enabling them to attend overseas conferences and network with their international peers. In return, we get to identify a range of valuable bidding opportunities for conferences that have the potential to come to Western Australia."