



Joondalup Weekender

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Ann O'Neill is travelling overseas to promote her work helping victims of crime.

Victims advocate heading overseas to share her story

ANGELHANDS director Ann O'Neill will attempt to bring the Australian National Victims of Crime Conference to Perth in 2013 with help from a \$10,000 professional development scholarship.

Dr O'Neill received the City of Perth award at the recent Perth Convention Bureau's annual professional development scholarship breakfast.

She founded angelhands – a victims of crime support group – three years ago after becoming a victim of domestic violence herself in 1994.

Dr O'Neill will attend the National Organisation for Victim Assistance conference in the US in August and said she also hoped to attend other conferences in Canada and England to help spread the word about Perth as a destination venue.

She said the trip would also give her an opportunity to talk to groups about her PhD, titled A Retrospective Exploration of Formal and Social Support Received: Experiences of Secondary Victims of Homicide in England and Australia, which she completed last year.

Despite her own tragic story, Dr O'Neill considers herself a professional rather than a victim these days and was recently the keynote speaker at an Australian Victims of Crime event in Sydney where she also discussed her PhD.

To donate to angelhands, visit angelhands.org.au or call 0416 580 090.