

Student helps Enable

A UWA student recently spent three months in Bunbury assisting a not-for-profit as part of an internship program, which aims to teach future leaders about the challenges facing communities in the South West.

Law and arts student Emma Young interned for Enable WA, which provides quality, individualised support for people living with a disability in the region with the help of the McCusker Foundation.

Joining other like-minded UWA students, Miss Young embarked on the program to learn more about the unique differences between regional and urban communities.

Ms Young investigated different support models that could be established to enhance the wellbeing of people with a disability and whether these could be sustained in the South West.

"It's aim is to help people with a disability access more

informal support gained through a close-knit community," she said.

Originally from Collie, Ms Young said she found the experience of working with the Bunbury-based not-for-profit a welcome return to the community-minded focus of the country town she was raised in.

"My role was to research and scope out the potential to develop an intentional community in the South West," she said.

"An intentional community is a community living together with a purpose so that can encompass a lot of things but what we were looking at specifically was co-housing.

"My job was to research out what kind of models they would be looking at, how it would work financially and what kind of people they would be looking at."

The 19-year-old's report findings are assisting Enable to mobilise people with a

disability in the South West to build stronger community connections.

"It was fantastic, it was really good to combine firstly the research skills I've been developing through my studies with community involvement," she said.

"In feeling like you're doing something and actually giving back to the community, whilst also being able to develop skills.

"It would be a huge project if they embarked on it because it would involve them establishing a community with a lot of housing."