

**Wednesday 15 June 2016****VCAL Young Mums seek community support to raise funds for special care babies**

The passionate young mothers of Bendigo TAFE's Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Young Mums program are seeking community support for a fundraiser to be held on 24 June. The fundraiser will support Bendigo Health's Special Care Babies Unit (SCBU).

The event will include a raffle – with top prizes comprising a baby hamper valued at approximately \$200, a Grease Gun valued over \$100, a \$50 Pampers voucher and a \$20 meat voucher. A gold coin donation barbeque will also be held, together with craft stall, fairy floss, CFA fire truck and more. Bendigo TAFE's training restaurant Vahlands Bistro will also be contributing 10% of coffee sales on the day.

In the lead up, the young mums are also hosting a silent auction of an assortment of luxurious items, including a Tysons Reef Hotel voucher, car detailing, beauty treatments, photo shoots and more.

Student Simone Halls, project team leader, said the young mothers chose to support the SCBU because of their personal experiences with the facility.

"We picked the unit because it's close to home – we're all young mums here and we know what it's like to have babies in the unit. My little boy was in the special care unit and the unit has done a lot for friends and family in the past. This is a fantastic opportunity to give back," she said.

"We'd like to encourage our local community to join us in supporting this important fundraising drive – funds raised will go directly to SCBU to assist them in providing their essential service to local families caring for premature and sick babies."

Bendigo TAFE's VCAL Young Mums program, which offers participants the option to take their toddlers into class, is catered to mothers seeking hands-on, employment-focused skills. The fundraiser is an avenue for students to apply these skills, from networking with businesses for donations to promoting and coordinating the event.

Public are welcome to come along to the fundraiser on 24 June at Bendigo TAFE's city campus, or participate in the silent auction on the young mum's Facebook page: SCBU Fundraiser at <https://www.facebook.com/ycalyoungmumsfundrasier>

**Media photo opportunities:**

When: Friday 24 June 2016 from 11.30am to 2pm

Where: Bendigo TAFE city campus  
McCrae Street, Bendigo

-ENDS-

**For more information contact:**

For further details including photo and interview opportunities please contact Kim Wilson, external relations and communications, on 03 5434 1557 or [kwilson@bendigotafe.edu.au](mailto:kwilson@bendigotafe.edu.au)

## **About Bendigo TAFE**

Bendigo TAFE is a division of Bendigo Kangan Institute. Through campuses in Bendigo, Echuca and Castlemaine, Bendigo TAFE provides services to students, industries and businesses throughout the region and beyond.

For more information about the VCAL Young Mums program click [here](#).

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