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Students can access free online tutoring

LYNDSEY WETTON, Bunbury Herald

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Free online tutoring is available again this year for South West students.

The Australia-wide yourtutor program, which in Bunbury is a joint initiative by the City of Bunbury and Edith Cowan University, helped more than 120,000 Year 4 to 12 students last year, in a wide range of school subjects.

Yourtutor is easily accessed through the City of Bunbury Library website and students can log on with their Bunbury Public Libraries membership card.

City of Bunbury regional librarian Sue Franklin said the free program would be very popular again this year.

"This service offers convenient, high-quality learning support to Bunbury school students, despite time and other pressures being experienced by busy families," she said.

"It's just amazing the comments that come from kids.

"They just say wonderful things about it."

Expert tutors from across Australia are carefully selected and tutor

on-demand from 4pm to 8 pm weekdays.

The program provides a realtime interactive learning experience with a controlled chatroom, whiteboard and shared web browsing for both tutor and student.

Yourtutor client services manager for WA and NT Dianne Guise said there were more than 100 sessions held in the Bunbury area last year and the program was set to kick off for the beginning of its first full year in Bunbury.

"This is something we take very seriously," she said.

"Our benchmark maximum wait time for students to connect with a tutor is only five minutes."

ECU South West Dean Robert Irvine said the service was a serious commitment by both the city and the university to provide first-class learning services for young people in the area.

"ECU got involved as we believe we have to add value to the community and not just to our own students,' he said.

"The program helps the students with their school work and allows them to understand online learning."

To access the yourtutor program, log onto www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/library.

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