



NEW HIGHS: BAYSA senior project officer Josie Taylor and manager Paul Weight are proud of the youth service's national award for its drug treatment program.

Photo: GLENN FERGUSON

Drug service touches many

GEELONG'S BAYSA Youth Services won Australia's top award for its drug and alcohol treatment program.

Drug and treatment centre manager Paul Weight yesterday said the award was symbolic of the courageous young people who used the service.

"Everybody is absolutely thrilled," he said.

BAYSA won the Australian National Council on Drugs award for Excellence in Treatment.

Mr Weight said the Youth Access program used outreach workers to engage drug-affected youth in their own environment.

"They are then assessed and we look at what other interventions are needed whether that be residential withdrawal, home withdrawal, counselling or support," he said.

"Without post-withdrawal support relapse is guaranteed."

Since its inception in September 2004, more than 500 young people have used the program while 247 people have received treatment.