

Drug agency's plea

Appeal for volunteers

By DAVID GOLDSMITH

A LOCAL drug and alcohol agency is appealing for more volunteer support to expand its mobile outreach program this summer.

Drug Arm is calling for people "with a passion" to help man its Glenelg-based Street Outreach Service (SOS), which provides assistance and support for vulnerable youth.

The service operates every Friday night, from 8.30pm-1am, in Glenelg's Moseley Square and other locations along the foreshore and within Marion.

But outreach manager **Sam Raven** said with only five volunteers to call on, the agency - which works closely with the Holdfast Bay Council and Sturt Police - was stretched to the limit.

"We've got a very small, very dedicated group of volunteers," she said.

"It's putting a big strain on our services, which is running on limited capacity as it is."

Ms Raven said with the busy summer period set to start, as many as 20 people were needed to



CALL FOR HELP: Jeff Roberts and Sam Raven, from Drug Arm, Glenelg. Picture: Neale Winter HF430906

run the service on Saturday nights. As part of the SOS program, trained volunteers provide tea, coffee, water and snacks - and, if invited, a willing ear - to revellers.

"Some are happy just to get their packet of chips and nick off, and that's fine, but others are happy to sit down and have a chat," Ms Raven said.

"If there's deeper issues - if they

say they want to cut down on alcohol or cannabis use - we can give them information on where they can get more help."

Volunteer co-ordinator **Jeff Roberts** said willing people needed "to have a passion" and the ability to listen.

"They need to have a good set of ears, and a good heart," he said.

Ms Raven said the SOS patrols played a role in helping curb

loutish behaviour. "We're not police or security guards so we can't stop any of that from happening," she said.

"But we hope that by getting there early and talking to some of the young people about looking after themselves and their mates we might be able to stop some of that from happening later on in the night."

■ Details: 8376 3522 or www.drugarm.com.au

Bay cab rank back on again

By DAVID GOLDSMITH

THE Colley Tce taxi rank has been partially reinstated, only days after it was shut down by Holdfast Bay Council.

Taxis will now be allowed to use the rank daily from 9am-6pm, with the bays reverting to ticketed public parking at other times.

The stand was closed on Monday, October 19, after a complaint to the council from residents of the neighbouring Colley Court Apartments, who said the nightly line-up of taxis was making their lives intolerable.

After discussions with the Taxi Council of SA, council staff decided on the compromise.

The decision was applauded by Holdfast Bay Mayor **Ken Rollond**, who said closing the Colley Tce rank completely had not been a good idea.

Mr Rollond said that with the nearby monitored Jetty Rd rank open only at night, it was important for Glenelg to have a visible taxi presence during the day. "We should monitor this very carefully and if extending the hours further would prove to be beneficial, then I would support that."

Colley Court Apartment management committee representative **Brian Shaw** said he had no issue with the introduction of a dual zone.

Taxi Council president **Wally Sievers**: "We'll work with (the council) to make sure it works for them and for us."