



22 JUL, 2019

Miners are big contributors

Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie

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OPINION

Paul Everingham

Recently, the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA (CME) surveyed its members and from that cross-section, there was a total direct contribution to the Kalgoorlie electorate of \$1.2 billion.

That contribution was through business purchases, community contributions and local government payments.

Not to mention employing more than 25,000 people in the gold industry, a quarter of the WA resources sector workforce.

More than 772 community organisations across the Goldfields were also supported. These includes:

- Local sporting organisations
- Goldfields Girl.
- KidsFest.
- The Women's Leadership Forum.
- Heartwalk.
- Leonora Golden Gift.
- Hannans North Tourist Mine.
- Menzies Rodeo & Ute Muster.
- Ray Finlayson Sporting Complex.
- Goldfields Child Care Centre.

There are so many more to list, in fact 762 more.

The Goldfields Child Care Centre also benefited from collaboration between mining companies which doubled its before and after school placements.

This was a \$250,000 investment.

The Goldfields education sector is also supported by the gold industry. Within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, KCGM has partnered with East Kalgoorlie Primary School, with support towards the delivery of its Health and Wellbeing Programs.

Evolution Mining built a nature

play space at Hannans Primary School and has been nominated for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's Community Partnership Resources Sector Awards.

Children from Full Circle Autism Centre are also able to travel to the school and use the NaturePlay Space as part of their

ongoing therapy. Northern Star Resources was a major sponsor of 2018 Heartwalk — employees also volunteered their time to prepare the walls for the murals.

The Aboriginal flagpole outside the City council offices was also brought to fruition by a partnership between the City and Northern Star.

Northern Star also contributes \$20,000 annually to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group.

There are community partnerships further afield.

AngloGold Ashanti, IGO, Barminto and Sandfire Resources support education and employment pathways for indigenous students in the Dandjoo Darbalung program at St

Catherine's College.

Students come from 30 different communities across WA.

Again, it's not just about Kalgoorlie-Boulder. It's about the region. Gold miners invest in their communities.

The gold industry plays a pivotal role in Goldfielders' lives.

The industry pays royalties to the State Government which distributes those royalties across the State.

Perhaps this is the conversation the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder should focus on?

■ Paul Everingham is the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA chief executive.



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Chamber of Mines and Energy chief executive Paul Everingham.
Picture: Iain Gillespie