

# Healing in workplace

By DENICE RICE

CREATING a healthy workforce involves dealing with more than just the “touchy-feely” issues of corporate wellness, according to Pharmacy 777 director Greg MacKenzie.

He says if companies are to reap the benefits of a healthy workforce, they have to help their employees deal with wider social and community health issues such as illegal drug use, alcoholism, depression, eating disorders and family breakdowns.

Mr MacKenzie said that while educating workers in areas such as nutrition and exercise were proven ways of improving productivity, companies had to be ready to help with less-palatable issues affecting the health of their employees and, in turn, the health of the community.

There were “some scary things to be seen at the coalface of community health”.

“In six months, the Pharmacy 777 group sold 16955 packs of hypodermic needles,” he said.

“There are five needles in each pack and almost every one of those 84,775 needles would have been used to inject an illegal, addictive substance, most



Greg MacKenzie



likely heroin.”

“Some people may be able to control their dependence, many cannot and start on a downward spiral of poor health that leaves a trail of destruction.

“Companies must realise that these people could very well be working for them and could be looking for help.”

Mr MacKenzie will speak about Creating Corporate Wellness — Work, Rest and Play, at the next Australasian Management Centre Innovation Forum at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre on Tuesday, September 11.

Tickets are \$110 each, or \$600 for tables of six, and are available online at [www.amcinnovation.com](http://www.amcinnovation.com) or on 1300 466 688.