

Tasmania

Supporting Young People on Bail

December 2015

Save the Children's **Supporting Young People on Bail** program aims to divert young people away from further involvement in the youth justice system by supporting them to reengage with educational, vocational/employment and positive recreational opportunities to turn their lives around.

Background:

The 'Supporting Young People on Bail' program started in 2011 in response to a lack of services to support young people who have been placed on bail.

Who we work with:

This voluntary program works with young people aged between 12 - 17 years who have been placed on bail in Hobart, Launceston and North Western Tasmania. We work in partnership with Community Youth Justice, Magistrates Court, Tasmanian Police Early Intervention Units, Department of Education and other community agencies to help meet the needs of the young people.

How the program works:

A young person is referred to the program by the Youth Court Magistrate, Department of Education or the Police Early Intervention Units, prior to their court appearance or on the first day they appear in court.

Following court, the young person meets with our Youth Workers to develop a Bail Support Plan which is submitted to the Magistrate. The young person's recreational, educational and vocational/ employment goals and aspirations form their Bail Support Plan.

The Magistrate adjourns the case to enable the young person to work on meeting their goals. Support is provided to the young person by the Youth Workers during their bail period to help them meet their goals. The young person will then return to court for sentencing. The young person's willingness to meet their goals will hopefully be reflected in their sentencing outcomes.

Why is it important?

- Working with young people to identify their goals and aspirations;
- Supported referral to educational/recreational/vocational programs;
- Transport to programs;
- Creation of positive support networks;
- Legal support

How we know it works:

Over the past 5 years, 219 young people have been referred to the program.

Of those 219 referrals, 151 young people (69%) chose to engage with the program.

The program is currently working with 47 young people.

Outcomes to date include:

- **65% (98) have not committed a new offence and returned to court while participating in the program.**
- 64% (97) re-engaged with educational/ vocational training opportunities
- 18% (27) have obtained work or work experience

Program Funding:

The program is currently funded by the Department of Health and Human Services with supplementary funding from Save the Children.

