

Submission

Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians

Submission No. 71

(Youth Violence)

Date: 10/03/2010

A.O.C.

 PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

BE INFORMED

BE PREPARED

PUTTING YOUTH IN THE PICTURE

&

PUTTING PARENTS IN THE PICTURE

RESPECT

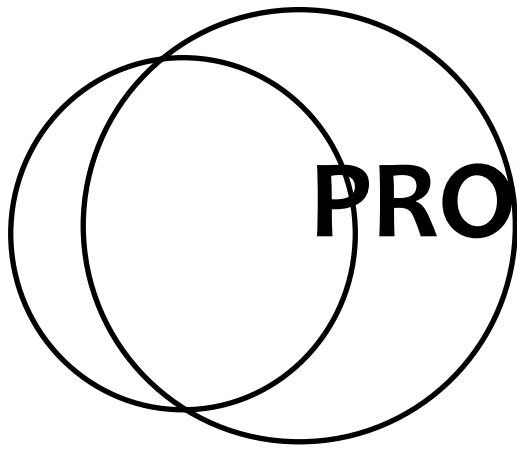
RESPONSIBILITY

RULES

PUTTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE

PICTURE





PROVINCE Promotions

ABN: BN20139238

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5 March 2010

Standing Committee on Family, Community Housing & Youth
House of Representatives (Suite R1-116)
PO Box 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2601

SUBMISSION PUTTING YOUTH/PARENTS/INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE PICTURE

What is it:

- A unique interactive, education resource to make students, employees, athletes and parents aware of the consequences of their actions in social situations.
- The presentation includes a series of confronting movie scenarios showing authentic young people becoming involved in life altering incidents as a result of poor decision making.
- The issues presented and discussed include youth violence on licensed premises, at an under-aged party, arising as a result of racial abuse and assaults on police.
- The movies have been professionally produced as DVDs and make compelling viewing.
- The characters in the scenarios are portrayed as good people who find themselves in bad situations.

- Management & Promotion – Sport & the Arts - Developing & Facilitating Educational & Training Resources -

- It is evidence based.

Background:

- As lawyers in regional Queensland, we have seen young lives destroyed by the misuse of alcohol, drugs, violence, cars and sexual assault allegations.
- Since 2000, we have worked on initiatives that foster a culture where young people take responsibility for their actions and make good decisions, not because they have been “told to”, but because it makes sense.
- Our experience has culminated in the development of a resource that educates young adults of the consequence of engaging in adult behaviour such as binge drinking, having sex and taking illicit drugs.

Progress:

- Our resource is currently being used in more than 120 schools, universities and TAFE colleges in Queensland and New South Wales (see attachment “A”).
- Our resource is being implemented by those at the frontline such as:
 - (a) Human Resource Managers/OH&S Managers from large workforces
 - (b) Coaches and sporting facilitators
 - (c) Teachers
 - (d) School Based Youth Health Nurses
 - (e) Crime Prevention Officers
 - (f) Social Workers dealings with youth at risk
- Our resource is used by the NRL and AFL Player’s Association to educate senior players and junior squad members.
- The resource is currently being used by Ergon Energy, Diageo Australia and units of the Australian Army to educate employees.
- The resource has been independently evaluated and further independent evaluations are on-going.
- We have presented to more than 12,000 students, employees, parents and athletes over the last 15 months and can personally vouch for the impact the resource is having in creating awareness.
- In relation to the Indigenous resource a pilot project has been funded by DEEWR into five (5) Aboriginal communities (Woorabinda, Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Charleville and Cunnamulla). For more information concerning the Indigenous resource, a copy of the Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs is attached and marked with the letter “B”.

- We have received significant media support. Attached and marked with the letter “C” is a copy of the most recent articles from The Age (12/02/2010), Black Town Sun (02/02/2010) and Rockhampton Morning Bulletin (14/12/2009).

Why is it successful:

- It is not a “one off” feel good session.
- The movies are real and connect.
- We are not preaching abstinence, anti-alcohol or anti-sex.
- We give people information they need to make sensible decisions and take responsibilities for their own actions.
- We are giving brutal honesty and authentic behaviour.
- The audience can identify with the characters in the scenarios that use appropriate language and act authentically.
- We are providing streamlined and efficient training.
- It is highly interactive and provides real time information. The audience is encouraged to come up with the solutions rather than a solution being imposed on them.
- The resource is flexible and can be adapted to any environment.

General Comments:

Legal/Social Harm Focus

- Our resource is unique because it looks at the social harms and legal issues facing youth. It has been our experience that a large majority of our target audience have little understanding of the law. For instance many young men and women think that they can rely on a defence of provocation or self defence or mutual fight and that they need not be concerned about a possible police investigation. We deliberately do not discuss guilt or innocence because ultimately this will be decided by the Courts however what makes the audience take notice is the procedures and costs involved with the initial police investigation and subsequent Court proceedings.

School Based Resources

- In relation to the use of our resource in school communities, it will be appreciated that every school is unique and the manner in which our resource is utilised will differ with each school. We are fortunate that in developing our resource we had the input of experienced educators and health workers. Their input was crucial in ensuring that what we developed did not hinder or place further pressure on the work demands of the Principals, Teachers, School Based Youth Nurses and Counsellors already working

within the school environment. We are acutely aware that there has been resources in the past that have been incredibly prescriptive in the manner in which the training was delivered. What we aimed to create was a very user friendly resource that focused on the social harm/legal consequences that could be readily implemented by those already working with youth. For example, the resource not only includes a training manual complete with lesson plans but also it provides a template for PowerPoint presentations that can be adapted by the trainer. In addition, as a result of feedback from teachers and health workers, we created an on-line forum so that teachers, trainers, parents and students could exchange information and share experiences.

Consideration also needs to be given to ensure that any resource will not impact on the core education responsibilities of the school. It will also be appreciated if there is an intense focus on youth violence then this will detract from other issues being addressed like sexual assaults, drug use or motor vehicle accidents that place youth at risk and have also been the subject of similar inquiries by governments.

Collaborative Approach

- We believe that health, education and justice authorities should be working collaboratively to address the issues. It is our experience that initiatives continue to focus on the “health consequences” of youth violence rather than the criminality. For instance there has been a tendency to simply delegate health workers to come up with a “health promotion campaign” to address the youth violence. With respect if we are to bring about a reduction of violent offenders coming before the Courts then the justice authorities need to have input and be consulted.

It has been our experience in dealing with health authorities at a policy adviser level that they are extremely reluctant to acknowledge the role that legal authorities have in helping bring about change. We can readily appreciate the equal role that health authorities have to play which is why at all times we sought to have them involved with the development of our resource.

For example when developing our resource we had the input of experienced government health workers and educators. We developed the resource as a training manual as the feedback that we received from the health professionals and educators was that for our resource to have the maximum impact it needed to be delivered over a period of time rather than as a “one off event”.

Workplace

- Despite a number of reports identifying the workplace as an avenue to help bring about a culture change it has largely been ignored. For instance in June 2006 the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in its report entitled “Alcohol and Work: Patterns of Use, Workplace Culture and Safety” identified the potential for the workplace to implement highly cost effective strategies for harm minimisation. It also recognised the knock-on effect that would suggest that any improvement would also extend to positively impact on the families, friends and associates. Further, it found young Australians joining the workforce are an especially vulnerable group and with an increase in expendable income are subject to strong behaviour-shaping influences such as those found in the workplace.

NB (We are currently in negotiations with private corporations and stakeholders in relation to a joint funding initiative to have our resource made available for all employers, tertiary students, parents and sporting organisations in Queensland (schools would be a by-product of the agreement). In relation to non-financial contributors we have the support of the likes of the NRL and AFL Player's Association. It will be appreciated that the NRL alone has the potential to create tremendous interest and discussion).

Summary:

- Federal and State Governments have demanded immediate action to counter issues facing youth today particularly youth violence.
- By reaching one person through education which results in that person not being involved in a police investigation or Court proceedings then even by the very basic measure of cost to the Court, cost to the police, legal fees (whether private or Legal Aid), demands on health service, costs of ambulance service etc will far exceed the expense of implementing our resource.
- What we have created is innovative, unique and allows communities to take ownership and embrace new ways of dealing with issues facing society.
- We have developed a highly interactive resource that is proactively creating awareness amongst employees, parents and youth and is confronting issues that have been described by the Prime Minister as an “epidemic” affecting our society.

Yours faithfully

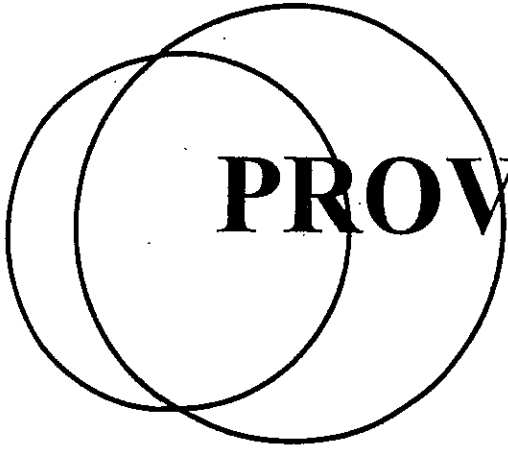


Adair Donaldson
B.Bus. LL.B., LL.M
Director

LIST

27/10/2008	Griffith Sports College	PYITP Purchase of Licence
29/10/2008	St Margaret Mary's College	PYITP Purchase of Licence
3/11/2008	Dalby State High School	PYITP Presentation
6/11/2008	Dormway Pty Ltd (Loreta College)	PYITP Presentation
11/11/2008	Warwick State High School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
13/11/2008	Springwood State High School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
14/11/2008	St Margaret's Anglican Girls School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
17/11/2008	Moreton Bay College	PYITP Presentation
18/11/2008	Pittsworth State High School	PYITP Presentation
19/11/2008	Toowoomba Grammar School	PYITP Presentation
20/11/2008	Harristown State High School	PYITP Presentation
26/11/2008	Rob Smith ANZ Bank	PYITP Presentations
27/11/2008	Toowoomba Youth Justice Service	PYITP Licence Agreement
1/12/2008	New Hope Coal Australia (Oakey SHS)	PYITP Licence Agreement
01/12/2008	Qld Health	PYITP Presentation
01/12/2008	Qld Health – 14 schools	PYITP Purchase of Licences
04/12/2008	National Rugby League Ltd	PYITP Licence Agreement
12/12/2008	Saint Stephen's College Limited	PYITP Licence Agreement
09/01/2009	MacGregor State High School	PYITP Licence Agreement
21/01/2009	The Southport School	PYITP Licence Agreement
22/01/2009	AFL Players' Association	PYITP Licence Agreement
13/02/2009	Burnett State College	PYITP Purchase of Licence
16/02/2009	Columba Catholic College	PYITP Purchase of Licence
17/02/2009	Griffith University Residential Colleges	PYITP Purchase of Licence
20/02/2009	Drinkwise Australia	Consultation
20/02/2009	Pittsworth State High School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
16/03/2009	Moree Women's Refuge Ngala House Inc– 6 schools	PYITP Purchase of Licence
16/03/2009	Capella State High School	PYITP Purchase of Licence & training
18/03/2009	Relationships Australia – Longreach	PYITP Purchase of Licence & training
18/03/2009	Queensland Health (ATODS)	PYITP Rockhampton Presentation
20/03/2009	Queensland Health (ATODS)	PYITP Travel - Longreach & Capella presentations
24/03/2009	Scots PGC College	PYITP Purchase of Licence
25/03/2009	Fairholme College	PYITP Purchase of Licence
30/03/2009	Queensland Health (ATODS)	PYITP Presentation & Training at Longreach
30/03/2009	Queensland Health (ATODS) – 4 schools	PYITP Licence & Training Manual for licensed premises
21/04/2009	Drinkwise Australia	as per Heads of Agreement dated 17/04/09
21/04/2009	The Southport School	PYITP Presentation
22/04/2009	Brisbane Boy's College	PYITP Purchase of Licence
23/04/2009	Woodridge SHS	PYITP Purchase of Licence
08/05/2009	Cavendish Road State High School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
19/05/2009	Saint Augustine's College	PYITP Purchase of Licence
21/05/2009	Dalby Regional Council - 4 schools	PYITP Purchase of Licence
25/05/2009	Qld Health Brisbane North Population Health Unit	Putting Youth in the Picture Presentation/ Workshop
27/05/2009	Wavell State High School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
02/06/2009	GAGAL (3 schools – Gladstone area)	PYITP Purchase of Licence
??	NRL – Westfield Sports College	PYITP Presentation
09/06/2009	The Salvation Army (Bundaberg 2 x schools)	PYITP Purchase of Licence
09/07/2009	Griffith University	Putting Athletes in the Picture presentation
20/07/2009	The Armidale School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
21/07/2009	Mountain Creek State High School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
21/07/2009	DrinkWise	2 nd instalment
22/07/2009	Cannon Hill Anglican College	PYIP – Presentations

27/07/2009	Rosedale State High School	PYITP Purchase of Licence
31/07/2007	DrinkWise	3 rd instalment
12/08/2009	Concordia Lutheran College	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
17/08/2009	Loganlea State High School	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
17/08/2009	St Paul's School	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
24/08/2009	St Hilda's School	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
31/08/2009	Carmel College	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
01/09/2009	Helensvale State High School	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
16/09/2009	Windaroo Valley SHS & Wesley	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
18/09/2009	DrinkWise	Reimbursement of Expenses
24/9/09	Toowoomba LIAG & Ergon Energy – approximately 11 schools and 1 TAFE	PYIP – Purchase of Licence – Toowoomba North & South
5/10/09	St Joseph's Nudgee College	PYIP – Purchase of Licence & Training
2/10/09	Matthew Stanley Foundation – 6 schools	PYIP – Purchase of Licence - Cleveland Electorate
15/10/09	DEET – Behaviour Support Service) 17 schools	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
15/10/09	Redcliffe Dolphins Rugby Leagues Club)	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
20/10/09	St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace	PYIP – Presentation
20/10/09	ATODS - Gayndah	PYIP – Presentations
20/10/09	St Aidan's Anglican Girls School	PYIP – Presentation
26/10/09	Tin Can Bay P-10 State School & Mary Valley State College	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
28/10/09	Ergon Energy	PYIP – Purchase of Licence & Presentations
5/11/09	Churchie	PYIP – Purchase of Licence
10/12/09	Warwick Police District	PYIP – Presentation at Youth Forum – fuel
8/2/10	DEET – Behaviour Support Services	PYIP – Train the Trainer – 4 Feb 2010



PROVINCE Promotions

ABN: 6320139238

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13 January 2010

Committee Secretariat
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

SUBMISSION

This submission is made in respect to the Committee's invitation to members of the community to provide input into the high level of Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system.

Background

- As a lawyer in regional Queensland, I have seen young lives destroyed by the misuse of alcohol, drugs, violence, cars and sex.
- Since 2000, my partner and I have worked on initiatives that foster a culture where young people take responsibility for their actions and make good decisions, not because they have been "told to", but because it makes sense.
- Our experience culminated in the development of a program that educates young adults, as well as parents, teachers and communities of the consequences of engaging in adult behaviours such as having sex, taking illicit drugs, becoming involved in fights, binge drinking etc.
- Over the last 2 years we have presented to more than 9,000 students, parents, elite athletes etc. The response has been overwhelming and extremely positive. Further information is available at www.puttingyouthinthepicture.com

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www.puttingyouthinthepicture.com

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- The program has been independently evaluated and is included as part of Queensland Health's Strategic Directions for Chronic Disease Prevention 2000-2012, Population Health Queensland published by Queensland Health as one of the resources that it supports the implementation of.
- As a result of being invited to present to Indigenous audiences we became acutely aware that if we were to maximise the impact of the resource with Indigenous audiences a training DVD with Indigenous characters needed to be produced.
- We have been contracted by DEEWR to implement our resource into the Indigenous communities in Woorabinda, Cunnamulla, Charleville, Doomadgee and Mornington Island.

Terms of Reference

I am not qualified to address all the terms of reference however I provide the following information that may be of assistance.

1. **How the development of social norms and behaviours for Indigenous juveniles and young adults can lead to positive social engagement.**

I would make a single comment that there is a tendency for all government programs that are addressing alcohol and crime to be imposing solutions on Indigenous audiences rather than seeking to engage the audience to come up with the solutions themselves. Further, each Indigenous community is unique and the "social norms and behaviours" will invariably differ from one community to the next.

2. **The impact that alcohol use and other substance abuse has in the level of Indigenous and young adult involvement in the criminal justice system and how health and justice authorities can work together to address this.**

The Committee will be well aware that in 90% of all Indigenous contacts with the justice system alcohol was a factor (source *National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee*). Despite this alarming statistic it is my experience that health authorities continue to concentrate their endeavours on the "health consequences" rather than the "legal consequences".

It has been my experience dealing with health authorities that they are extremely reluctant to acknowledge the role that legal authorities have in helping bring about change. I can also provide a wealth of correspondence showing my endeavours to have health authorities consider the legal consequences to little effect. In saying this, I can readily appreciate the equal role that health authorities have to play which is why at all times we have sought to involve health authorities with the development of our resource.

For example when developing our resource we had the input of experienced government health workers and educators. We developed the resource as a training manual as the feedback we received from the health professionals and educators was that for our resource to have maximum impact it needed to be delivered over a period of time rather than as a "one off" event.

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There has also been a tendency in the past to simply delegate health workers to come up with a "health promotion" campaign. With respect if we are to bring about a reduction of Indigenous people before the Courts then the justice authorities should play a major role.

To provide an example of how the justice system can help bring about change, we recently appeared before the District Court in Charleville where we entered a plea of guilty on behalf of Mr Patrick Gibson who was charged with Dangerous Driving causing Death whilst under the influence of alcohol. Prior to sentencing Mr Gibson, with our assistance, created a training DVD aimed at addressing the high rate of drink driving in regional Australia. The Sentencing Judge, Dearden DCJ made the following comments about our client's initiatives:

"You have taken, of course, one further very important step, and that too, interestingly enough, reflects a request that I make repeatedly of defendants who I sentence for dangerous driving causing death. At the end of my sentencing remarks, it is almost always my practice to say to them, as one human being to another, that if, on their release from prison and it inevitably is a release from prison; if they can, in some small way, whether formally or informally, educate other members of the community about the dangers of driving motor vehicles dangerously and, in particular of course as in your case, driving dangerously while affected by alcohol, then those people will, in some small way, perhaps contribute to reducing the utterly unnecessary loss of life that occurs on our roads because of the failure of people to comply with their obligations to drive safely and to drive without being affected by alcohol or drugs.

As I said, you, to your credit, have done far more than I have asked of any defendant, and you have done it far earlier than any defendant that I have ever spoken to has done anything and, of course, as I tell them, I will never know whether they have done anything. In your case I do know that you have done something, and it is clear to me that what you have done, in addition to the material already produced by the organisation your solicitors have set up, is a powerful educational tool to assist others, particularly young men, because sadly it seems to be young men who are most susceptible to that combination of testosterone and alcohol-induced invincibility, and it might just induce at least some of them to change their behaviour, and if, in some small way, your actions prevent one death, then the universe will be grateful. If it prevents 10 deaths, it will be extraordinarily grateful, and anything more than that would be truly a gift.

You will have achieved three effects. You will have contributed in a small way to the healing of Mr Hunt and his family, and I have read both his and his daughter's victim impact statements, and I understand, as best as any human being can, the depth of their despair and their sorrow. You will have contributed, I hope, to other families not going through that similar despair and sorrow at the loss of a loved one. You will, of course, have contributed to your own healing, and that too is extraordinarily important.

.....
I commend you again for what you have done with the DVD. I said, and I mean it very sincerely, I say at the end of the sentence like this as one human being to another, to primarily young men but young people in the dock, and I asked them personally. I hope that they do something, but I do not know because they walk out typically into gaol, and whether they ignore my request or not is just a matter - I have got no way of knowing. In your case, as I have said, I do know and I have no doubt having seen it now for a second time that it will make an important contribution because it is a real person telling a real story. It is not an actor. It is not a fake emotion or a fake story. It is a real story. It is a real loss of life, and I hope that it makes a real difference."

Charleville District Court- 7 September 2009

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This drink driving DVD is now being made available to all that are using our training resource. The response has been overwhelming from audiences as they can relate to Mr Gibson telling his story.

3. **Any initiatives which could improve the effectiveness of the education system in contributing to reducing the levels of involvement of Indigenous juveniles and young adults within the criminal justice system.**

We have developed an independent self funded program entitled "Putting Indigenous Communities in the Picture" which, even in its embryonic stage, is having a positive impact. The program is making young Indigenous audiences aware of circumstances and situations which can lead to violence (and other anti-social behaviour) enabling them to make informed decisions and to become responsible for their own actions.

What is it?

- The resource includes a series of confronting movie scenarios showing authentic Indigenous young people becoming involved in life altering incidents as a result of poor decision making.
- The issues presented and discussed include sexual assault, a bar room fight, family fight, use of illegal recreational drugs, motor vehicle accident, binge drinking, sexual assault and domestic violence.
- The vignettes have been professionally produced as a DVD and make compelling viewing.
- The characters in the scenarios are portrayed as 'good people' who find themselves in bad situations. The characters are normal and likeable and are not the stereotypical characters which are so prevalent in past awareness campaigns.

Why Does It Have A Chance of Success?

- It is not a "one off" feel good session
- The movies are 'real' and will connect with the audience
- The resource is designed around "telling tales" that the Indigenous youth can relate to
- The resource is visual and highly interactive
- We are not preaching or imposing a solution
- We are giving:
 - brutal honesty and authentic behaviour. The audience can identify with the characters in the scenarios as they use appropriate language and act authentically
 - a streamlined and efficient resource
 - an interactivity and real time information. The audience is encouraged to take part in the presentation so they come up with the solutions together

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- We keep it simple
- As the Indigenous communities are unique, the resource has been designed to foster a whole community approach – i.e. the Elders, youth workers, health workers, police, teachers and most significantly, the Magistrate within the local area.
- **By reaching just one person during each presentation which results in that person not being involved in an accident or a police investigation or court proceedings, then even by the very basic measure of costs to the court, costs to the police, legal fees (whether private or legal aid) demands on health services, cost of ambulances service etc will far exceed the expense of implementing the resource**
- It is innovative and unique and allows communities to take ownership and embrace new ways of dealing with issues facing society
- It is cost efficient
- It provides an immediate impact
- We do not just look at alcohol related events in a vacuum and as such it is more a community approach trying to address a wide range of issues effecting youth
- Flow on benefits include:
 - Promotion of Indigenous music
 - Promotion of Indigenous young actors
 - Greater prospects of employment if criminal history is limited
 - It provides non Indigenous audiences with a greater appreciation for Indigenous issues such as racial abuse

As an example of the immediate impact that our resource has had in an Indigenous community I provide the following unsolicited letter from Mr Kelvin Jarrett who is an Advanced Health Worker, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Community Mental Health Service, Woorabinda.

“24 November 2009

I'm writing to you to say that your programme “Putting Youth in the Picture” is an excellent programme, the best I've been involved in. I would also like to bring to your attention of some of the highlights of introducing your programme to the local high school here in Woorabinda in the past month or so.

I introduced your programme on the 02/11/2009 at Wadja Wadja High School in Woorabinda; I must admit I was a bit sceptical and very nervous wondering how the students were going to react to the mainstream version of your programme. The response to the first two scenarios was absolutely amazing, the students and staff participated in all aspects of the discussion following the viewing of the DVD. Some of the highlights were.

- The first session was attended by 3 teachers, 5 teacher aides and 12 students, there contribution to the discussions was excellent

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- All students who participated in all discussions were very empathetic i.e. putting themselves in the actors position and how would they have reacted in these types of situations
- The group allocated time was initially 1 hour, but the discussion saw us take the time easily to 2 hours
- Again the participation was excellent from both groups as well as teachers and teacher aides, group discussion was brilliant

We also utilised the 4 Corners programme – Matty Johns (*our resource featured in the program as an example of how the NRL is educating players*) scandal to show students as well as staff, it doesn't matter who you are, everybody is vulnerable to alcohol/substance misuse. The programme was such a hit with all the students and staff involved they wanted more programs on fallen high profile sports stars, but the message I gave them was clear that it didn't matter who you are, were or was it all had them same effect and came with huge consequences if abused. The program complimented the "Putting Youth in the Picture" program so much it gave it whole new dimension and made it easier for the youth to understand.

Since we began this programme in Woorabinda the response from students and staff has been amazing, even the staff in the Woorabinda Multi Purpose Health Service are very inquisitive about the programme. It's been such a good response from everybody involved, we started delivering it once per week.

The desired outcome of "Putting Youth in the Picture" pilot program was a success with excellent participation in all discussions, not only from the two student groups but from the teachers and teacher aides as well. The amount of feedback after it was finished was phenomenal, with one student asking "When are we going to do this again, tomorrow". As a facilitator of this program I personally thought we wouldn't get this kind of reaction until the third or fourth session, I'm so proud to be a part of your programme and thank you.

Kelvin Jarrett
Advanced Health Worker
Alcohol & Other Drugs, Community Mental Health Service
Woorabinda"

NOTE:

This letter relates to the main stream version. Woorabinda is due to implement our Indigenous resource in February this year.

Summary

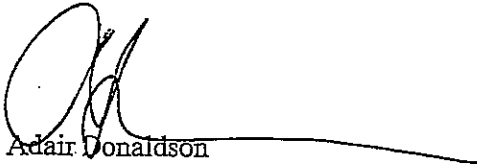
We need to change the development of social norms within Indigenous communities beginning with today's youth. To do this we need an interactive program to promote discussion and confront issues and attitudes. Only by informing young people of the possible pitfalls, or consequences of their actions, can we arm them with the information they need to take responsibility for their own actions and to make the right decision at the right time.

My experience with our resource shows that an interactive education program, rather than a campaign preaching abstinence and more ways to say "no", can change behaviour.

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Finally, any education campaign must be flexible and be able to be adapted to an individual community.

Yours sincerely



Adair Donaldson
Director
LL.B., B.Bus LL.M

Enclosures:

1. DVD – Welcome to our World – Indigenous Youth

"The Board of the Queensland Hotels Association is pleased to formally endorse the Welcome to Our World program as a highly suitable vehicle for youth education and awareness training, particularly in relation to informed decision making, and the potential consequences of the mis-use of alcohol."

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Peachey and Vagana give young indigenous stars the cold, hard facts

BRAD WALTER

February 12, 2010

The shocking fact that young indigenous males are 28 times more likely to spend time in jail than non-indigenous youths was not a statistic members of the NSW Kooris and Queensland Murrumbidgee under-16s team had expected to hear during their week long training camp on the Gold Coast.

But former NRL stars David Peachey and Nigel Vagana, who yesterday helped run a social education program for the players involved in the curtain-raiser to tomorrow night's historic All Stars match, believe it is important they are aware of the incarceration rate for young Aborigines and the fact that 80 per cent of those who run foul of the law are affected by alcohol when they first come into contact with the judicial system.

"There are a lot more ways to end your career off the field than there are on it," Vagana said.

The session, which was similar to those organised by the NRL for players in the under-20s Toyota Cup competition, was adapted for the indigenous players by Adair Donaldson, a Toowoomba-based lawyer who is trying to educate young people to avoid situations that lead to them needing his legal services.

To assist him, Donaldson used a series of DVDs titled *Putting Youth in the Picture*, which showed actors in the type of situations that could land young players in serious trouble and a former client talking about the "life sentence" he is enduring - as well as the five years behind bars - after a drink driving incident in rural Queensland that left a woman, who was a wife and mother, dead.

In case the players had trouble relating to the DVD examples, which included a pub fight and a brawl with police at a party, Donaldson also called on media reports of sacked Sydney Roosters hooker Jake Friend's trial this week on an assault charge. "It was an eye-opener for these kids because they thought rugby league was just about what happens on the field but it is not any more," Peachey said. "We're trying to give them the reality and the cold hard facts about what lies in front of them, and their destiny is in their own hands."

In the DVDs, the players are shown an incident in a pub which starts when an intoxicated patron calls a young Aboriginal a "black prick".

There are two scenarios; the first resulting in the indigenous man punching his abuser's friend in a case of mistaken identity that none of the under-16s players picked up on.

In the second scenario, the victim of the racial abuse expressed his feelings to the two men but no punches are thrown. "When you turn the other cheek and man up by walking away it can be a lot harder for that person to deal with," Peachey told the players.

"The program that we ran today was I guess a more realistic scenario for indigenous boys from around the country and in regional Australia," Vagana said. "They are situations that they would see a lot more often than if they were in city."

Peachey told the players he had played in a similar match 20 years ago and from the Queensland indigenous team only Wendell Sailor and Sid Domic had enjoyed long first-grade careers, while he was the sole NSW player to do so.

General

Warning on teens' parties

Warning on teens' parties

BY RODERICK SHAW

02 Feb, 2010 08:54 AM

TEENAGERS' parties can turn into disasters if alcohol, drugs and uninvited guests find their way in.

Staff at Huntingwood's drinks factory Diageo Australia viewed a DVD on the subject, Putting Parents in the Picture, at Penrith Panthers last Friday.

Queensland solicitor Adair Donaldson and his law firm, Province Promotions, first compiled the DVD in 2007.

``After seeing all those good people in court, ruined because they made a split-second decision with life-changing consequences, I wanted to do something," he said.

Putting Parents in the Picture tells the story of a couple organising a party for their 16-year-old daughter.

``They don't follow the police's guidelines for safe parties young guests show up and the parents lose control."

In the story there is under-age drinking and illegal drug use, culminating in sexual assault, brawling and a young person being hit by a car.

It gets worse with legal action being taken against the parents by the victims' families.

Diageo's corporate relations director, Bob Rayner, said the company was keen to promote responsible drinking and safe behaviour.

``It's bad for business if our products are abused," he said. ``But promoting responsible drinking is also the right thing to do."

He said Diageo required its employees to undergo DRINKiQ, a global program for responsible drinking.



Parents in the picture: Adair Donaldson with Diageo corporate relations director Bob Rayner. **Picture:** Gary Warrick

The movie-making lawyer

Woorabinda youth star in trailblazer's latest offering

By **AMY FORMOSA**
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A COUPLE of Indigenous teens are driving their ute along a road, chatting and having a good time with the music up loud.

But they're driving without a licence and they're not wearing seatbelts.

They see a mate on the side of the road and stop to offer him a lift.

He gets in and now they're overloading.

The speed picks up and it's not long before they see their mate Billy and tell him to jump in the tray.

Billy yells out from the back to crank up

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



ON SET: Department of Communities office manager for the Central West region, Rockhampton's Jeremy Marou, helps out on the set during filming of *Putting Youth In The Picture*.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



LOOKING FORWARD: Toowoomba-based lawyer Adair Donaldson is the man behind a series of DVDs focusing on alcohol abuse and other youth issues.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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who is making a difference

FROM PAGE 8

the music and starts yahooping and dancing around.

Next minute, SMASH; blood sprays all over the windscreen.

The driver wakes up in hospital to be told "Billy's dead" and police want to charge the driver.

Putting youth in the picture is what Adair Donaldson is trying to do.

With the help of a Brisbane film producer, this is a typical example of one of the short scenarios that make up the latest DVD called *Putting Youth in the Picture*, which is part of a series of three.

The first was a mainstream production based around racial abuse and volume two was about safe partying and parental responsibilities.

Over the past few years the Toowoomba-based lawyer has worked on spreading the message about poor decision making and the folly of drug and alcohol abuse to young people.

Adair launched the latest indigenous version of the resource in Woorabinda recently.

The short film has Rockhampton-based Indigenous youths acting, traditional Indigenous music, a blessing from the Elders and was set in

“A lot don't understand what the law is

Rockhampton.

“What we wanted to ensure was that the DVD was realistic. We wanted young Indigenous people that wanted to tell stories and were motivated to bringing about change for not only their local community but we hope to our nation,” Adair said.

“We gave them the scenarios and told them to go for it. The end result speaks for itself. The talent that they showed and their insight send a message not only to Indigenous audiences but to all. Further we were truly privileged that our initiative had the sup-



FILM STARS: The main actors in Addair Donaldson's latest DVD *Putting Youth In The Picture* were (from left) Rockhampton blokes Baden Plumber, Arthur Marou, Nathan Willams and Tyrone Willams.

port and blessing of the Darumbal people,” he said.

The issues dealt with include assaults, racial abuse, domestic violence, motor vehicle accidents and sexual assault.

Adair said, although he didn't know what to expect on his visit to

Woorabinda, he was blown away with the positive response.

“A lot of young people simply don't understand what the law is or how it relates to them. The young people watching the scenarios could pick up on the issues and how they could avoid them.

It was incredible,” Adair said.

Adair said a recent report revealed that Indigenous people are 13 times more likely than other Australians to go to prison.

“What's even more alarming is that more than half of young people aged 10 to 17

years in juvenile correctional institutions are Indigenous.”

He said Woorabinda elders had “tremendous drive and experience” and were doing whatever they could to bring about change. The Department of Communities was pleased to support the

program by providing direct assistance to the local Indigenous actors with transportation and personal support to ensure they could fully participate. Adair said they hoped to receive government funding to roll out the program in 12 Queensland Indigenous communities.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

are the same

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