

To Whom it May Concern,

In follow up to a phone conversation I have just had with one of your team members, **Privacy**, please see the following information and attachments about a highly impactful program that we have run for NT teenage girls for 5 years.

The program is called Miss A.R.T. (Activate, Rehape and Transform) and is for girls aged 13-19 that aims to give them self leadership and life skills. It equips and empowers participants by giving them the knowledge, tools and skills they need for a happy, healthy and confident future. It is specifically designed to strengthen self esteem and resilience, build confidence and self respect and nurture a self belief mindset. The program also cultivates capacity and drive to contribute to society and the lives of others.

For four and a half years this program was provided for free for almost 400 girls and was fully funded by my business and through fund raising support from over 1000 women who have participated in my adults program and have all said "I wish I'd have learnt these tools and self understanding when I was a teenager".

In 2016 our resources could not keep up with demand and need and luckily the NT Government funded a school holiday program to assist. This school holiday program was delivered in Darwin, Alice Springs and Palmerston with 152 girls attending. The funding enabled us to engage an external company to evaluate the program outcomes both primary and secondary. In summary the pre and post survey results showed a:

40% increase in health (mental and emotional)

52% increase in happiness

63% increase in confidence

Every girl in every cohort, in every location, significantly improved in each of the 18 survey statements. Please see attachment <http://bit.ly/MissART2016Report> for the full report including an analysis of the outcomes, participant feedback and recommendations.

The report highlights Miss A.R.T's capacity to be a highly impactful prevention and

early intervention program that focuses on building mental fitness and emotional wellbeing as well as self responsibility.

It is well known that by increasing self esteem in our youth we are ensuring that they are less likely to engage in truancy, sexual promiscuity, substance use or abuse, eating disorders, self harm and/or criminal or violent behaviour and also less likely to experience anxiety and/or depression.

Even though highly impactful and outcome focused the NT Government has refused to fund another program series, stating that Miss A.R.T. is considered to be an 'early, early intervention program and right now our focus is on youth diversion'.

Given the outcomes of Miss A.R.T. and the fact that we have a long waiting list of girls wanting to do the program and are contacted daily by parents, who are at a loss as to how to keep their daughters on track and mentally and emotionally well, the NTG decision is surely short sighted. If we do not invest in breaking the cycle in the early stages we will continue to have ongoing and significant issues with our youth.

As a part of the Royal Commission I ask that you:

Read the Miss A.R.T. 2016 Report

<http://bit.ly/MissART2016Report>

Listen to the radio interview with Katie Wolf Mix 104.9

<http://www.mix1049.com.au/360-with-katie-woolf/latest-from-katie/66680-catie-kirke-calls-on-government-to-reconsider-funding-programs-for-teenage-girls>

Read the attached NT News article dated 9th June 2017

And consider Miss A.R.T. as a recommended program to support our next generation. Please note that whilst Miss A.R.T. is a program for teenage girls we have had hundreds of enquiries about delivering it for young men and we believe that with access to resources the program could easily be contextualised for males and that male facilitators could be trained to deliver it in a range of settings including Youth Diversion.

If you have any questions, recommendations or need any further information please call me on Privacy.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Catie Kirke

