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## Submission to Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory

Prepared for: Commissioners Mick Gooda and Margaret White  
Prepared by: Pat Ryan, CEO, Dismantle Inc  
Date: 4th April 2017

In light of this Royal Commission's request for submissions, Dismantle is pleased to present the following information regarding youth engagement programs which have been proven to be successful with at risk young people within, or who have a track record with, detention centres, custodial facilities and the justice system.

Following your review of this information, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss our programs and the relevant application options available, including potential delivery of an initial Pilot Program within a youth Detention Centre in the Northern Territory with a relevant cohort of participants. Concurrently, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the innovative BikeRescue License Model designed to establish local capacity and sustainable delivery capability.

To set up such a discussion please contact myself at [pat@dismantle.org.au](mailto:pat@dismantle.org.au) on **Privacy** or our Business Development Manager Darren Thomas at [darren@dismantle.org.au](mailto:darren@dismantle.org.au) on **Privacy**.

### 1. Introduction

Dismantle is a youth development organisation with a range of innovative and engaging programs that support at-risk and disengaged young people to realise their potential.

#### **BikeRescue**

Central to Dismantle's youth engagement programs is the award-winning 'BikeRescue' program, a 10-week mentoring program for at-risk and disengaged youth that uses bicycle mechanics as a tool for outreach, mentoring and transitioning participants to further support services.

BikeRescue achieves this through:

- Education, vocation and career goal planning
- Hands-on learning and skill building
- Emotional intelligence and resilience development activities
- Providing a routine and safe space for building new relationships
- Access to a healthy and sustainable recreation utility - their bike.

Our BikeRescue programs are conducted for, or supported by, a partnership pool of organisations where the engagement, growth and development of at-risk young people is relevant to their operations and goals. Such organisations range from schools, youth agencies, local councils, law enforcement and correctional agencies, through to community funding organisations and corporate organisations with corporate social responsibility goals related to at-risk youth.

#### **BikeRescue License Model:**

To enable accessibility of BikeRescue equally across metropolitan, regional, remote and interstate areas, a Licensed Model is also available where local agents are provided with comprehensive training, equipment and ongoing support to effectively deliver BikeRescue activities with their relevant youth cohorts.

This innovative capacity-building approach places the IP of BikeRescue into the hands of partner organisation staff, to enable them to deliver BikeRescue underpinned by the support of Dismantle's specialised BikeRescue management team, through a facilitator training program.

The format of the training can be adapted to suit the needs of the partner agency, with the standard format consisting of 5 full days of training and potential supervised workshop sessions with young people.

This BikeRescue Licensing Model delivers a BikeRescue alternative which enables a cost-effective and broader range of organisations, irrespective of location, to use bike mechanics structured under the proven BikeRescue formula.

#### **BikeTherapy:**

Through identified needs with program participants experiencing mental health issues, Dismantle has recently developed a specialised version of BikeRescue called BikeTherapy.

BikeTherapy consists of a combination of highly engaging bicycle mechanics and the highly effective mental health intervention, Dialectic Behavioural Therapy (DBT). This group therapy program teaches emotional, interpersonal and distress tolerance skills in an engaging environment.

## 2. BikeRescue and Youth Justice Services

Dismantle has delivered BikeRescue as a program to support justice-related engagement, diversion and reintegration programs with at-risk youth and incarcerated young adult prisoners.

With a focus on delivery in this field, Dismantle will be broadening such delivery in the future to help support the reduction of recidivism rates with current prisoners and to increase the success of pre-incarceration diversionary activities.

Following are some of the crime reduction, justice intervention, and incarceration-based applications of BikeRescue from recent years:

### 1. City of Geraldton - 2015

Partnered with PCYC and Juvenile Justice Team to deliver a 1-week BikeRescue Program in school holidays. Targeted Prolific Profile Offenders (Information in attached report).

### 2. Mullewa - 2015

Partnered with Youth Centre and Local Police to deliver a 1-week BikeRescue in school holidays. Targeted Prolific Profile Offenders. After completion of the program, the week of delivery was highlighted by the local police as the town's first youth crime free week in 7 years (information in same report as above).

### 3. Rockingham JJT - 2015

Funded by WA Police, partnered with the local Juvenile Justice Team to facilitate suspended sentence and court diversion activities.

#### 4. Karratha - 2016

This License partner utilised a partnership model with the police, the youth centre and the local high school to target particular young men who had been identified by police as at-risk.

#### 5. Forrestfield - 2016

Local metropolitan community BikeRescue program, which included engagement of **F**  
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#### 6. Wandoo Reintegration Centre - 2015-16

BikeRescue programs delivered at Wandoo Reintegration Facility with young male residents. All participants actively engaged in all sessions to restore bikes to donate to community and give to family members as Christmas presents.

#### 7. Wadjak Centre - 2016/17

A tailored BikeRescue Program was delivered for a cohort of at-risk/disengaged youth in the Balga area through the Wadjak Centre. Prior to the Program, these young people were displaying anti-social behaviour throughout the community.

### 3. BikeRescue Program Considerations:

Since 2010, in excess of 500 young people have participated in BikeRescue programs throughout metropolitan Perth and regional and remote areas in WA, within educational, community, business and custodial settings. These programs have encompassed a wide range of indigenous and non-indigenous participant cohorts, including but not be limited to:

- disengaged and at-risk school students,
- incarcerated young offenders and youth on suspended sentence orders,
- alternate education service provision,
- homeless young people in crisis.

Across all programs, a consistent average of +90% completion rates are achieved.

To achieve and be able to report effectively and accurately to program partners and relevant stakeholders on these outcomes, Dismantle's BikeRescue program structure, content and delivery is underpinned by externally and internally sourced qualitative and quantitative data.

### 6. Conclusion:

Dismantle is very proud to be at the forefront of innovative program development and delivery for at risk young people. We are looking forward to hearing from you following review of this information in light of the critical need for proven, innovative youth programs to assist in the reduction of incarcerations and recidivism rates of young people in the Northern Territory.

As noted earlier, we are an organisation that is committed to improving the lives of young people at-risk in our communities. We would be pleased to discuss our program options, including customised establishment, pilot program and ongoing program applications for custodial settings, pre-detention intervention and community capacity building needs.

Kind regards,

**Pat Ryan**

CEO

Dismantle Inc.