

# Tasmania

## Transition from Detention

December 2015

Young people who have been in detention or remand in Ashley Youth Detention Centre often struggle to reintegrate back into the community and turn their lives around. Save the Children's Transition from Detention program aims to reduce the number of young people held on remand and in detention as well as support them to reengage with educational, vocational/employment and positive recreational opportunities.

### Background:

The 'Transition from Detention' program was established in 2011 in Tasmania in response to a lack of services to support young people to transition back into the community on release from juvenile detention.

### Who we work with:

This program works with young people, 12 – 18 years, who are in detention and/or remand in Ashley Youth Detention Centre. We work in partnership with Ashley Youth Detention Centre, Ashley School, Youth Justice, Child Protection and the Department of Education to help meet the needs of young people.

### How the program works:

Ashley Youth Detention Centre and Ashley School workers refer young people to the this voluntary program.

Our Youth Workers travel to Ashley Youth Detention Centre, just outside Deloraine in northern Tasmania, for one day each week to work with the young people while they are in detention.

During the remainder of the week they support young people who have already been released to transition back into the community.

The Youth Workers help them to identify and meet their recreational, educational and vocational/employment goals and aspirations.

The Youth Workers are positive role model mentors who provide practical assistance.

Forming positive relationships with young people in juvenile detention and maintaining this relationship once the young person returns to the community is vital to ensure they avoid reoffending and ending up back in Ashley.

### How we know it works:

Since the program started 5 years ago we have worked with 63 young people.

93% (59 )young people continued to engage with the program on return to community.

The program currently works with 25 young people (18 in community and 7 in detention).

Outcomes for young people who we work with on release in the community (59) include:

- **64% (38) did not return to Ashley Youth Detention Centre while engaging with the program.**
- 51% (30) engaging in educational/vocational opportunities
- 90% (53) engaging in positive recreational opportunities
- 25% (15) gaining employment

### Program Funding:

Currently Save the Children and the Tasmanian Government fund the Transition from Detention program.

