



Mission Australia



Creating pathways through a successful youth

Youth Beat is an outreach service for young people, aged up to 25, in Darwin and Palmerston who are on the streets at night. The service aims to improve young people's safety, by diverting them from risky behaviour and crime, and helping them connect with each other and with local community services.

Creating pathways through a successful youth

Mission Australia helps people in need by giving them the support they need to get back on track, and lead more fulfilling lives. Our community programs inspire self-confidence and hope, enabling people to tap into their own resources to pursue positive and independent futures.

Young people today face immense challenges. One-in-five young people live in single parent households. Nearly half (46%) of the 100,000 Australians who are homeless on any given night are young people aged 25 and under. This modern social context means that young Australians are more 'at risk' of facing serious issues such as family breakdown, depression, mental illness and drug and alcohol abuse more than ever before. The result is often that young people become trapped in a cycle of negative behaviours and crime.

Our innovative youth programs build confidence and resilience in disadvantaged young people, helping them set and achieve goals and move forward with their lives. Our aim is to help reconnect young people with their families, their communities and themselves.

Description of service

Youth Beat seeks out young people on the streets who may be experiencing issues with education, alcohol, drugs or family breakdown. Youth Beat engages young people by giving them someone to talk to about their problems. The service provides information, and links them and their families to other agencies that can provide more specialised, one-on-one longer term support.



Providing this support helps to address the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce boredom, improve the safety of young people at night and most importantly, gives young people someone to turn to when they don't know where else to go.

Youth Beat works alongside youth service providers and government policy makers by identifying and reporting on the needs of young people who come in contact with the service and actively promotes and participates in youth community initiatives.

In supporting Youth Beat, your investment will go towards keeping young people off the streets and safe at night and connect them and their families with longer term support to move forward with their lives.

The project costs approximately \$470,000 per year to operate and receives partial government funding.



Program objectives

- Maintain contacts, interventions and conversations with young people
- Make appropriate and timely referrals
- Form meaningful partnerships within the youth sector.

Program outcomes

In 2006, Youth Beat helped 7,200 young people and 600 families in Darwin and Palmerston by providing direct support and connecting them to other community service providers.

Further information

To find out more about becoming a Mission Australia partner visit Corporate and Community Partnerships at www.missionaustralia.com.au or contact us on (02) 9217 1010.

Case Study: Julio's Story

'I'm Australia's next boxing champion'

Julio wants to be Australia's next boxing champion – but at the age of seven, it will be a few years before he's allowed into the ring. Julio's mum, Anna, doesn't have a car, so twice a week Mission Australia's Youth Beat drives him to the Majimap Boxing Gym where he trains with Boxing coach, John McLean. Mission Australia has also donated gloves and boxing pads while John waives his regular coaching fee for Mission Australia Clients.

"Julio was very shy before he started boxing. Over the course of a year, he's built up his self confidence and is doing much better at school. I hear from his teachers that he's asking more questions and is really beginning to concentrate now. Julio also used to suffer terribly from Asthma. Now, it rarely bothers him."

Anna, Julio's Mum