



MacKillop Youth Services

MacKillop Youth Services continues to provide integrated and adaptive models of care and case management for young people in the Barwon Region. These services cater for young people requiring emergency, reception, short term and long term residential accommodation, adolescent specialised home based care, lead tenant, supported accommodation, Reconnect Early Intervention Program and case management services for young people accessing the program.

The program has continued to consolidate and provide a continuum of care for young people with challenging behaviours. Diversity, adaptability and an ability to think 'outside the square' in meeting the needs of young people are essential ingredients in order to continue to provide a quality service to our adolescents.

Placement options for young people within this program are:

- two family group homes for up to four long-term clients with challenging behaviours;
- three 1:2 medium to long term residential units for two high needs/high-risk clients;

- one reception/short term residential unit for two high needs/high-risk clients;
- 1:1 placement for a high-risk client;
- adolescent specialised home based care for 10 young people aged between 10-18 years;
- two lead tenant units for three young people moving toward independent living; and
- early intervention Reconnect Program providing case management coordination for 16 clients.

Highlights

During 2001-2002 MacKillop Youth Services achieved:

- Care for 54 young people.
- The Reconnect Program being rated in the top 11 programs in Australia by external evaluation; congratulations go to our dynamic Reconnect workers. Reconnect was refunded for a further three years.
- The introduction of care plans for all young people in our services based on the philosophy of 'Looking After Children'.

- The development of a comprehensive residential care manual for all facilities.
- Maximised training opportunities for all staff throughout the year.
- Raising an overall awareness of Occupational Health and Safety issues within the residential services.
- The further redevelopment of rostered residential models to meet the challenges of high needs clients creating better staff/client ratios.
- Stronger links with the education system in the region to meet alternative education needs for our young people.
- The development of a more collaborative working partnership with Department of Community Services.
- The continued provision of a number of contingency residential placements for Department of Human Services as demand for placements could not be met within the service system.
- More young people being able to stay within the Youth Services Program due to the ability to move through the services as their needs change.