

# Southern Region and Specialist

## Program Reports

### Rice Education and Youth Services

**Rice Education and Youth Services** incorporates all services associated with education and training programs in the Melbourne metropolitan area. These services are the Transitional Integrated Education Residential Service (TIERS) which includes St Vincent's School; Western Education Centre; Behaviour Management Support Services; School Focused Youth Service; CIRCESS (Children in Residential Care Education Support Service) and Cedar Works.

**TIERS** (Transitional Integrated Education Residential Services) provides intensive residential, educational and case management services for high risk special needs young people aged between nine and 15 years of age.

The service includes out-of-home care in three residential care units; education services through St Vincent's School, and intensive case management and support services.

**St Vincent's School** provides intensive education services as part of the state-wide TIERS program. This service gives priority to young people in residential care as well as day students.

**Western Education Centre** is based at St Anthony's Family Centre in Footscray. Under the leadership

of Sr Mary Davis, the service has continued to offer high quality educational support to children in need of additional education, classroom and social skills. The service provides a valuable complement to the family focused work of St Anthony's Family Centre.

During the last year, 30 children have accessed the Education Centre. Most children attended the Centre, but where distance is against us, we visit the classroom setting and homes for afternoon tutoring sessions. Their ages range from four to 14 years of age.

**Behaviour Management Support Service** provided assistance to Catholic primary and secondary schools in the Western and Northern Regions, in a systemic approach to the management of students with an emphasis on behaviour management and community linkages. The service ceased in December 2001 after eight years of operation.

**School Focused Youth Service** provides support services for schools in the cities of Melbourne and Moonee Valley. In addition, it manages a brokerage service supporting innovative projects to sustain at risk students aged 10 to 18 years. The Service convenes a welfare network for those working in secondary schools as a means of support and consultation in the management of 'at risk' students.

**Children in Residential Care Education Support Service** provides intensive support for children and young people aged between nine and 17 years who are in residential care.

It assists them to integrate or re-integrate into school and to plan for their future educational and vocational needs. The program has doubled over the past 12 months with 57 people receiving support. Educational encouragement included provision of tuition, course fees, educational assessment and attendance at school welfare meetings and liaison with parents and residential carers.

**Cedar Works** provides training in furniture restoration and construction, and metal works for long-term unemployed, students at risk of prematurely leaving school and people on community orders. Cedar Works continues to win Community Jobs Program tenders and is supplementing income from sales and other services. It has just received confirmation of a further Community Jobs Program tender which will operate in the second half of 2002, providing training and skills to unemployed young people interested in setting up a sole operator business in furniture restoration. It has provided employment training to 24 participants in 2001-2002.

### Highlights

In 2001-2002 Rice Education and Youth Services achieved:

- The opening of St Vincent's School in its new Maidstone location in first term 2002.
- Window of Opportunity For Adults (WOOFA) an ANZ Charitable Trust project enabling 16 of our parents to have access to the Western Education Centre. These self-directed life skills sessions have meant that adults have learnt skills such as cooking, basic machine sewing, reading and computers. Imagine the delight for the teacher when finally (after three attempts) an adult learner obtained her driving learner's permit.
- Launch of Western Region Schools Health Promotion Network that will improve the interface between education and mental health, with an emphasis on new initiatives for young people.
- 31 school/community projects funded through School Focused Youth Service brokerage with a strong emphasis on projects aiming to build skills for successful transition from primary to secondary levels.

