



St Joseph's Child & Youth Services

Group Homes Program includes four properties providing care to a total of nine young adolescents. These placements range from a specialised one to one arrangement, through to a four bed group home. Eight staff members are employed to manage the care of the young people along with a youth worker, case manager and co-ordinator. Three staff provide educational support to children previously excluded from school who now attend a specific school program.

Western Adolescent Services has been restructured over the past twelve months. Currently there are four rostered staff residential units accommodating a maximum of twelve young people. The restructure enabled the provision of a mobile after-hours, on-call worker to assist staff in high times of need. A youth and family counsellor position was also created to engage with young people who refuse mainstream counselling services and to nurture family reunification.

Northern Adolescent Services

commenced the operation of three residential units in the Northern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne in February 2002. Each unit accommodates up to four adolescents. The service is supported by a co-ordinator, a case manager and a youth support worker. The program has established positive networks with the Department of Human Services and other community organisations in the region, and has provided consistent quality care to its very challenging clients.

Lead Tenant Program is the only service of its kind in the Western Region. Three houses provide accommodation for a total of six young people aged between 16-18 years. The focus of the program is the young person's growth towards independent living. This is facilitated by them sharing the houses with two volunteer lead tenants. A youth support worker and a team leader/case manager provide external support for the young clients and the volunteers. The stability of these clients and the lead tenants is successfully regarded with seven clients accessing the service in the past year and the volunteer lead tenants remaining over the entire period.

Highlights

During 2001-2002 St Joseph's Child and Youth Services achieved:

- A trip to Queensland taken by young people, in the **Western Adolescent Services Program**. These people represented three of the four units.
- A healthy rate of day program attendance by young people, and the planning of two innovative transitional accommodation options for challenging older clients within the service resulted.