

Second CHANCES SA Restoring

Photo: Stuart Daddow



Winter 2017

Restoring Dignity through School Uniforms

Keeping prisoners' kids (PKs) in school is a key factor in keeping them out of the justice system. According to research, truancy is a strong and reliable predictor of delinquent behaviour, especially among males. PKs who do not attend school regularly, are often taking the first step toward a lifetime of problems.

At **Second Chances SA**, we know the integral importance of new school uniforms and shoes for PKs to keep them from truanting - because we know these kids are seven times more likely to go to prison than their peers. On top of this, if a child is indigenous they are 21 times more likely to go to prison than their peers.

We enter a child's life as early as we can to reassure a child of a prisoner that school attendance and completing their education is essential for them to make positive pathway decisions and good choices for their own lives. For many PKs, tight family budgets are a way of life and unfortunately many PKs are also left feeling inferior or 'different.' Sadly this can lead to PKs being teased and bullied. When a child has a new uniform and shoes, **it is a simple and effective way of giving them dignity, value, a sense of worth and confidence to go on with their education.**

Through home visits by our **PK Family Care Team** we see first-hand the state of children's school shoes and uniforms. Over the past 12 months, we've teamed up with local councils to provide 45 PKs with new uniforms and shoes. In each case, without support from the **PK Family Care Team** and **Second Chances SA**, these would be additional expenses families simply couldn't afford. The removal of the Federal Government's back to school bonus which took effect in January, has low income parents and caregivers feeling the pressure even more now.



Responses from families, children and carers we've supported include:

- "I always walk past these shoes and just dream – I never went in because I knew we couldn't afford them."
- "You don't know what this means to me!"
- "Finally, I have a school uniform that fits properly. I love it!"

Earlier this year we were invited to promote our services to **60 Children Wellbeing Practitioners** within the **South Australian Department of Education**. This means that when they are working with a child who is struggling at school and has a parent in prison, they now call us for assistance. Already this relationship has led to new referrals and has increased the number of families and children we can support.

We are grateful to the various Local Governments who understand that supporting PKs living in their City is an effective means of early crime prevention. **The City of Salisbury, City of Tea Tree Gully, City of Marion and City of Port Adelaide Enfield** have awarded us small community grants, enabling us to provide 45 PKs with brand new uniform packages. We are hopeful other philanthropic and fundraising foundations, groups, businesses and individuals will also rise to meet this urgent need.

At the time of going to print we wait for news of our funding application with the State Government to continue the **PK Family Care Team** from 1 July 2017 and beyond.

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Supporting South Australia

More than two years ago we strategically decided to include 'SA' in the name of our new charity because we are proudly South Australian in serving the community in SA.

Often donors don't appreciate how important it is to give to a 'South Australian only' charity, yet when you do, you can count on the fact no funds will be leaving the State.

Many national NGOs with headquarters on the eastern seaboard, appeal for donations from South Australians but invariably a smaller amount is actually spent on South Australian causes.

One large local Trust observed the drastic changes in the NGO landscape when 'national restructuring' was introduced to some charities. They reported that South Australian branches became collateral



damage every time SA operations were reduced to a minimum, like having a 'post office' box presence only. Leading up to the EOFY (End of Financial Year) of June 30 we are approaching the Top 100 SA businesses to consider partnering with us because we believe wealth generated in SA, needs to stay in SA and be reinvested back into the community of SA for the benefit of SA!

Will you join us by keeping your hard earned donation dollars here in beautiful South Australia?

Thank you South Australia for your generosity of heart.

Gratefully yours,

Helen Glanville
Chief Executive

Community Mentoring is Essential

At **Second Chances SA**, community mentoring is a key component in combating recidivism and in seeing lives turned around. Community mentoring involves visiting a prisoner on a regular basis before release which continues into the community- befriending, supporting and encouraging ex-offenders to learn to live a crime free life while overcoming life's obstacles. When the right mentor is in place, prisoners generally do not return to prison. **When we help to turn around a long term recidivist we reduce the number of victims. This is crime prevention!**

Restore 24 Community Mentoring is the name of our project submitted to the Minister's Strategic Policy Panel for 'Reducing Reoffending: 10% by 2020.' Employment, meaningful leisure activity, living skills, money management and budgeting, friends and social networks made with the help of a trusted mentor, lead to positive social outcomes. Criminologists say 'people will change when they are surrounded by people who believe they can change.' Ben and Carla are two **Second Chances SA** volunteers leading the way in relational community mentoring.

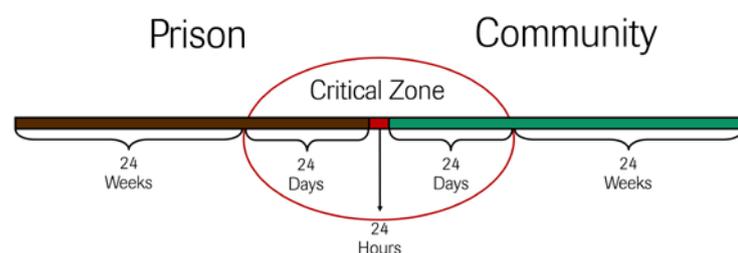
For the past three years, **Ben** has been a volunteer with Second Chances SA, investing his time into visiting the Adelaide Pre-Release Centre and mentoring and supporting over 20 post-release prisoners. For Ben, "my role does not stop when a prisoner is released. It only just begins."



The 24 hours after a prisoner is released is the most critical point in their transition into the community. As a prisoner is released into society, they are quickly bombarded by all the challenges of 're-entry' into normal life and all the responsibilities that come with it. Ben has observed that it is at this point prisoners can either "start freaking out or just give up. That's why it's so crucial for someone to be available at that time for them."

For those who are supported and committed to turning over a new leaf – there is hope. "I know community mentoring has definitely been a turning point in their lives," he says with an optimistic twinkle in his eyes.

Restore 24 Community Mentoring



The first 24 hours is the most critical time post release.

Carla has been volunteering with **Second Chances SA** for just over one year and has come alongside eight women post-prison. It is her faith that brought her into community mentoring and it is her faith in Jesus that drives her to help them.



As she has developed friendships with women inside the Adelaide Pre-Release Centre, she has been able to track with some of them as they have been released into the community. For Carla, it is integral that the women she supports are constantly reminded she is there for them when they need her. Once a week she calls and visits women in their homes to see how they're doing.

There are some women Carla knows who would have gone back to their old vices of drugs, alcohol and gambling if they had been left on their own. Now instead, these women can call Carla when they're struggling and be reminded someone supports and believes in them. Carla says, "I don't think some of these women have ever been shown love. Now I get to demonstrate Jesus' love to them in practical ways."

Jason's Story

"Upon release, a **Second Chances SA** volunteer came to Church with me and kept in regular contact. I felt like someone had my back and I wasn't alone in getting my life on track. **Second Chances SA** has helped me to see some parts of the community will support me and perhaps my life will be better than it was before. They support my desire to gain employment, get an education and turn everything around. I just wish more prisoners would know how much a difference they can make in their lives."

Restoring Hope

Rescuing PKs: Diversion from Detention

Thanks to over 2,400 members of the public who in 2016 voted for our program, **Rescuing PKs (Prisoners' Kids)** as part of **Fund My Community**, a State Government initiative inviting the general public to vote on local programs benefiting the wider community. Our **Rescuing PKs** program is designed to deliver diversion interventions to keep at-risk PKs out of the justice system through custom-designed character building residential retreats – giving them opportunities to develop their leadership skills.



Residential Leadership Retreat – November 2016



Older Teen Boys Character-Building Retreat – January 2017



Younger Teen Boys Character-Building Retreat – April 2017

The first of these kicked off last November when 15 PKs aged from 12 to 18 years spent a weekend learning about leadership, First Aid, healthy relationships and team work.

This year, our Older Teen Boys spent a weekend engaging in outdoor education activities while our Younger Teen Boys learnt about team work and perseverance kayaking and camping along Katarapko Creek.

One PK in particular had a positive change in attitude and acceptance over just one weekend.

Before this special program finishes in July, there are three character-building retreats planned including a Younger Teen Girls mentoring weekend in the Adelaide Hills, a Teen Boys Leadership weekend in June and one for Teen Girls in July.

Over the course of the **Rescuing PKs** program, we will have trained, mentored and encouraged 25 PKs across Adelaide - instilling perseverance, self-worth, team work, respect, leadership, and practical skills into the lives of at-risk youth. All 25 participants are currently attending school and will continue to be engaged with us through future **PK Mentoring Camps**.

Partnering with Churches and Community Clubs

In March, Salt Church adopted **Second Chances SA** as their local mission for 2017 across its three campuses in Gawler, Playford and Waikerie, with the goal of raising \$6,000 for **PK Mentoring Camps**. On March 5, CEO Helen Glanville spoke on the importance of investing in PKs. In the evening service, Second Chances SA **Ambassador** and former international cricketer, **Henry Olonga** shared his story with the Church including his special musical performances. As at the end of April, **Salt Church** smashed their original target by raising over \$7,200!

How your Church or Community Club can partner with us

There's a range of ways you can partner with us to support our programs reaching families and children affected by crime. If your Church or Club would like to adopt **Second Chances SA**, please contact us at 8272 0323 or office@secondchances.org.au.



