

## Bouncing in the Hills

Over an action packed weekend in April, twenty primary-aged PKs took to the Adelaide Hills for three days of fun and mentoring. The weekend's activities included a bush walk, bubble soccer, bottle rockets, and even a little golf.



### Christians should go to prison!

When Jesus in Matthew 25 speaks of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting the prisoner – this verse became a personal call to action for our 2015 intake of new volunteers. **Carla Cressey** visits women in the Adelaide Pre Release Centre (APC) each week and began volunteering with Second Chances SA a year ago. Hearing about prison ministry struck a deep chord in her heart: *'Jesus came for people that are broken and need Him.'* **Tony Rogers** visits men at the Yatala Labour Prison (YLP) also began volunteering in-prison last year and found God doing a similar work in him. He knew God was softening his heart towards prisoners and those on

the fringes of society when he realised these were simply people who were *'not bad, but just broken.'* **Phil Hanel** has been visiting prisoners at the Adelaide Remand Centre (ARC) since November last year. He feels strangely comfortable there. He's so enthusiastic he'd like to be full time to meet and help the guys through practical helps every day of the week.

Carla, Tony and Phil are part of a group of six new in-prison volunteers 2015, also made up of **Bryan Sellars** (YLP), **Peter Hawke** Port Lincoln prison (PTL) and **Greer Gabrielli** Adelaide Womens Prison (AWP). If you feel a calling to volunteer in-prison, you can learn more at the **'Get Involved'** page on our website: [secondchances.org.au](http://secondchances.org.au).



Tony Rogers, Carla Cressey, Phil Hanel



# They're Falling Through the Cracks

Recently I met the brother-in-law of a female offender and single mum with two children. She'd been pulled over by police to find her vehicle was unregistered and there was a warrant out for her arrest. She had violated the law on several occasions for drug dealing and the Court gave her bail both times. This time she was arrested, taken into custody and imprisoned. What angered the relative was on the day of her arrest, no one visited the home where the two school aged children, a boy and young girl, were living, to check on their welfare. Neither the police nor anyone from Families SA came to check on a girl as young as eight. Other adults boarding in the home watched over them but fortunately, the prisoner's sister visited on a daily basis to check up on them until the mother was released.

This story is typical of what is tragically happening on a weekly basis. **The children of prisoners are falling through the cracks.** No government knows who they are or where they live. No government keeps a record of how many there are yet they are the most vulnerable. They have no voice and they have no one advocating for them – except us. If a grandparent or suitable carer does not step up to the plate immediately when

a parent has been taken into custody, what happens to the child or in many cases the children? How long will it be until someone responsible is notified of their status? **On admission to prison are they routinely asked, 'If you have children who is caring for them?' The answer is, 'NO!' This question is not asked.** What sort of society are we living in when the innocent victims of crime are not considered or cared for as a matter of priority?

We know PKs are seven times more likely to go to prison than their peers. No other organisation in SA has identified the need nor is meeting the crisis exclusively for PKs. Will you help us help them? Help us advocate and educate the community to steer at-risk PKs away from crime. **Support our PK Family Care Team now and beyond 2016.**



Gratefully yours,

Helen Glanville  
Chief Executive

## Young Women Leaders – In the Making



With thanks to



## PKs at the Zoo



Thanks to **United Way**, our Prisoners' Kids Family Care Team were able to hand out 50 free admissions to local PKs and their families to spend at Day at the Zoo. For most of these families a trip to the zoo is a luxury they would typically not be able to afford.

## Our very own Local Hero

Since 2008, **Les Dennis** has been involved in organising and coordinating our PK Mentoring Camps. He is a tireless volunteer who is passionate about what he does. Les also shares his time and energy with Scripture Union, CBMC (Adelaide Prayer Breakfast), Meals on Wheels, and his local Rotary Club of Regency Park. This year alone Les has been acknowledged with a spot on the **Top 20 Statewide Superannuation Local Hero awards** and was also the proud recipient of the **Rotary Service Above Self Award** from Rotary International. Les is one of only eight South Australians to receive this award since its inception in 1991. Congratulations Les! Great to have you on our team at Second Chances SA!



*Restoring Hope*

# Our Unique Team



PK Family Care Team: L to R: Bec Schulz, Erica Southern, Melinda Eckert, Rebekah Sellars

Thanks to a Special Youth Grant (SYG) awarded in December 2013 by the Department of Community and Social Inclusion, the **PK Family Care Team** was formed. It is a three year pilot program to steer vulnerable children of prisoners away from contact with the Justice System. **The measure of our success is that 99% of our PKs have avoided contact with the Justice System.**

A typical case study goes like this, *"A teenage boy I worked with was in trouble with the law and disengaged from school. He struggled to transition from living in an unstable home with his mum while his dad was in jail, to living with his aunty and cousins for safety reasons. I was able to get alongside him, work out supports at school, organise for him to go on 'Teen Boys Camp', and equip him to reengage in high school."*

## Since its formation in January 2014 the PK Family Care Team has:

- Formed a four person professional team with complementary skills.
- Developed **122 partners**; other agencies and schools to benefit PKs through referrals.
- Recorded over **814 PKs** on our secure database.
- Made over **600 home visits** across 11 Council areas in Metropolitan Adelaide.
- Established strong relationships with over **350 PKs**.
- Created over **220 goal plans** with PKs.
- Formed direct client relationships with over **182 families**.
- Supported **24 grandparents** who became caregivers through a parent's imprisonment.
- Provided vocational training to **25 PKs** during 2015.
- Purchased brand new school/sports uniforms and shoes to **12 PKs** in the City of Salisbury.
- Delivered over **80 Christmas hampers**.
- Connected **10 PKs** to Church youth groups across Metropolitan Adelaide.
- Took **hundreds of PK Birthday presents** to the birthday boy or girl in their birthday week.
- Supplied **40 'Back to School' starter packs** to young PK students.
- Supported PKs attending all eight PK Mentoring Camps each year.
- Encouraged PK emerging leaders who attend the annual three day training weekend.
- Promoted services for PKs in the Adelaide Womens Prison.
- Engaged **42 young people and 7 caregivers** in a pilot Art Therapy program over two months.
- Launched the Davoren Park Drop-In Centre where **20 PKs attend**.
- Completed an independent evaluation of all services up to March 2016.

As this pilot program has been successful by demonstrating that continued support for PKs produces positive outcomes, it is our desire to take the team beyond 31 December 2016. We are the unique service in SA solely dedicated to reaching and rescuing PKs from crime. **South Australia needs the PK Family Care Team as an ongoing specialised service which focusses on children being steered away from anti-social behaviour and crime.**

## Independent Evaluation

At the two year mark we knew it was time to seek an evaluation which could give us indicators and recommendations to take the team to the next level especially after having proven the pilot a success.

The 22 page report by **Align Advisors** notes 13 areas for improvement with three related directly to data collection. Other areas include improving internal processes and increasing liaison with external agencies.

The report states, *'The model employs some of the best practice approaches identified in the field of crime prevention. It targets young people at high risk that uses individual goal orientated case management.....it addresses the risk and protective factors for offending and creating links into community support.....it also focuses these interventions at a key 'transition point', middle school aged children from geographic areas of high risk.'*

As one team member said, *'The team is achieving good things that are very necessary and I think it needs to keep developing and becoming more and more professional in how we do it.'*



Melinda Eckert

A hearty big welcome to our new Team Leader **Melinda Eckert** who commenced in February and is leading the PK Family Care Team into the next phase of its development.

Mel has completed a Bachelor degree in Social Work and brings years of experience and knowledge regarding the plight of what most PK children face on a daily basis. She personally understands what it's like living in a single parent home and even what it is like to become a client of Families SA.

Melinda plans to strengthen the work processes and ensure children benefit fully from a team working cohesively with PK Mentoring Camps and each other. Changes in collecting data will be introduced. Mel is the only full time employee with two working three days and one two days a week.



**PKs are seven times more likely to go to prison than their peers**



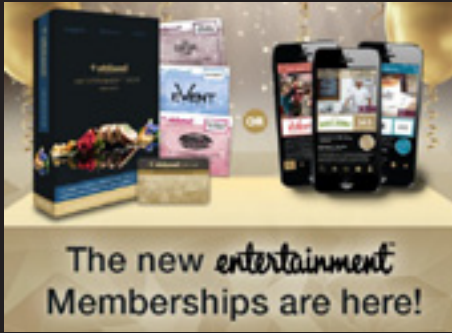
Second Chances SA is now on YouTube! To watch our very first SCSA promotional video (1:50 mins) search for "**Second Chances SA Promo 2016**" on YouTube – and while you're there be sure to subscribe for future video content.



## Ambassador raises the roof



At our first Friends Night for 2016, the audience was treated to a special performance by SCSA's newly appointed Ambassador, **Henry Olonga**. Accompanied on piano by SCSA Chairman, **Timothy Minahan**, Henry captivated the crowd singing "You Raise Me Up" and "Give Me Jesus."



For the very first time, Second Chances SA is now selling the highly popular **Entertainment Book 2016/2017** featuring thousands of discounts at multiple locations across SA and Australia. If you would like to buy a copy or purchase the app, head over to our Second Chances SA's fundraising page: [www.entbook.com.au/91p2463](http://www.entbook.com.au/91p2463)



On March 30, stationary store, Kikki.K (Glenelg) donated 20% of sales to Second Chances SA as part of the franchise's nationwide Charity Day.

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#### GRANT FUNDED POSITIONS:

**PK Community Advocate:** Chris Bowman

**Port Lincoln Reintegration Worker:**

Andrew Cornell-Trapp

**PK Family Care Team:** Mel Eckert,

Bec Schulz, Erica Southern, Rebekah Sellars

To see Our Direction and Our Promises go to our website  
[secondchances.org.au](http://secondchances.org.au)



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