

Good Shepherd NSW Pathways to re-engagement



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About Good Shepherd ANZ

- o GSAZ is a national not for profit organisation with services located in Victoria and NSW.
- o Formed in November 2014 from the merger of three separate GS companies including Rosemount Good Shepherd based in Marrickville.
- o We aim to disrupt the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage with a particular focus on women and girls by providing services and challenging the system through research, advocacy and social policy development.
- o We provide a range of services including early intervention and prevention, alternate education, counselling, microfinance and family support.




Three Focus Areas

- The Day Program
- Waranara Centre
- Wellbeing



- Counselling
- SYPP

- Step UP
- NILS
- Fin Counselling



The day program

- 10 week re-engagement program over 1 school term 3 days a week plus an educational / physical activity
- Up to 12 young people aged 14 -16 in years 9-10
- Referral sources, schools, HSLO, adolescent mental health services
- Not a 'behavioural' program
- Re-engagement life skills program focusing on; Identifying and managing strong emotions, looking after our physical and mental wellbeing, sexual health, Communication, Building relationships, creativity (art, drums, writing)
- Pathways to education including possible Transition to Waranara Centre Marrickville and Paddington campus's




What Works For Us

- We work with a very small group
- Weekly 1:1 meeting with young people and a designated support worker
- Case management and family support for the duration of the program (sometimes longer)
- A safe environment for the young people to push their comfort zones
- Collaborative supportive team work approach
- On site team of counsellors
- Parent / carer involvement
- An alternative education program to refer to
- Group structure and dynamic; there needs to be 12 successful young people at the end




The Waranara Centre




The Waranara Centre

Secondary school that provides personalised education program for students in Year 9 through to Year 12 at Mairackville and Paddington

Registered accredited Independent school.

- **Small student population:** maximum of 26 in junior enrolments and 20 senior enrolments
- **High staff-student ratio:** To cater for the diverse needs of the students in the class room
- **Flexible alternative education environment:** uniform-free environment, personalised learning plans/study support strategies, voluntary homework policy.
- **Additional Pastoral Care and social support:** Students are able to access on going health and well-being support through Good Shepherd's on site counselling and Well-being support workers
- **Family Support:** Regular consolation meetings and conversations between school staff and parents/careers through out the school year as well as additional relevant individual support and advice to family members upon request.



Attendance

Reasons offered by interviewees for improved attendance for young people @ TWC:

- Close monitoring of students, through weekly staff conferences, to enable 'wrap around' supports to be put in place
- Fortnightly 'check-in' meetings by the Wellbeing Support Worker with each young person
- Counselling program supporting young people to attend to complex trauma and other aspects of mental health
- Putting in place a re-integration plan put in places when attendance drops
- Other measures eg: 9.45am start, student motivation to attend the senior school



Achievement

Interview comments indicate positive changes for students with their learning:

- "[my daughter] comes to school now because she wants to do year 10, the hours are much better for her, there's no homework and it's a relaxed environment... she comes home and tells me what she's done in English and Science. She likes Romeo and Juliet"
- "They're a lot more lenient with assignments [at the Centre]. They don't mind if it's late and give me more time and then I get it in. There are selections within a broad topic. I like English because I can write my own opinions - no pressure to get facts. We do poetry, Romeo and Juliet, bullying and body image, how the media perceives and deceives us."
- "my other school didn't support me to get assignments done except in-school suspensions to get the work done and I hated that."



Contact Us

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Chloe and RJ's journey

