

GAOL SETTING FOR YOUNG ARTISTS' VIEWS ON CRIME

From the South Australian Crime Prevention Unit

In South Australia young offenders and young people at risk exhibited art about juvenile crime and crime prevention at the Old Adelaide Gaol as part of Come Out '93 Youth Arts Festival.

The exhibition was the highlight of the Youth Participation Expozay which has been running for six months.

Across the State, 13 individual projects funded by six government agencies, local government and the private sector have enable young people to contribute to arts events in the country as well as in the city.

These projects provided music and humor for the exhibition launch, as well as the visual exhibits.

The exhibition launch attracted over 300 people; young and old, poor and not-so-poor, black-and-white.

The goodwill and enthusiasm generated in the community by the Expozay project has provided momentum for young people to develop further projects of their own, as well as creating an opportunity for them to get together and find out what each other is doing.

Some of the continuing work includes:

- Hindley Street Youth Service, who hosted the shop-theft cartoon project featured in the recent Crime Prevention Unit Bulletin, has asked Salisbury, Elizabeth and Murray Bridge to be part of a night in which the bands established by the young people can play together and to other young people;
- Enfield is planning further arts and video-based projects because the young people see these skills as helping them to work on what is real in their lives;
- Elizabeth Youth Service now has visual arts and music in their ongoing program;
- Murray Bridge's Ngarrindjeri Vice band are continuing to play in their local area and two visual artists have received training to work in the school as peer educators;

- A considerable amount of poetry has been produced by young people in the South Australian Youth Remand Centre (SAYRAC), some of which was displayed at the Expozay exhibition, and there is much interest in publishing this work;
- Mount Gambier Youth Power is "under siege" by young people to keep the arts program going;
- Murray Bridge and Salisbury are organising a get together for young Nunga bands, will hold a joint school music camp in Term 3, and are planning to tour young Nunga bands to the Iron Triangle to promote Nunga music to young people;
- The Aboriginal community has booked young Nunga bands to play at functions.

Outcomes like this illustrate that young people can contribute positively to their community.

Through the issue-based art these young people are working on they are able to see the many sides of crime.

They have begun to realise that to live in a society free from violation and abuse we must stop violation and abuse in our own practice - or at least try.



Elizabeth band "The Law" performing as part of the Youth Participation Expozay at the Old Adelaide Gaol.