

FUNDS PROVIDED FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION EXPO

[From the South Australian Crime Prevention Unit]

The South Australian Attorney-General's Crime Prevention Unit has provided core funding of an innovative, exemplary project that will involve and educate young people and the community about youth crime, its causes, and its prevention.

The Youth Participation Project (YPP) was initiated by Dorian Marsland, the Youth Crime Prevention Project Officer, and has become a standing committee of the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA).

It has developed an exciting arts project that will culminate in a youth crime prevention Expo that aims to involve young offenders, those at risk of offending, and young people in general, in expressing their experience and opinions about juvenile justice, youth crime, and crime prevention.

The project seeks to maximise youth participation in all aspects of the process, including generation of ideas, project design, community liaison and involvement, management, evaluation and documentation, as well as young people being actively involved in creative workshops.

The project will involve young people in developing their individual and collective voice through their own choice of artistic medium.

Young people will be exploring their relationships with the courts, the police, gaols, remand centres, lawyers and other agencies related to juvenile justice.

Those involved in the project will have the opportunity to express their ideas, to increase their awareness of the issues, to develop their skills through participating in the process, and to educate other young people and the community.

The process will be directed toward products showcased locally and in a two-day "Youth Expo-Say" on youth crime and its prevention, on the weekend of May 15 and 16.

This will coincide with the Come Out Youth Arts Festival '93.

Creative workshops and final products will have a crime prevention/intervention focus.

The project is a State-wide initiative with rural regional activities happening as well as outer metro and metropolitan Adelaide.

Not only will the Expo involve many young people, both offenders and non-offenders, it will also make available to the general public and to youth policy makers the opinions and experiences of young people who are affected by community decisions and attitudes about youth crime and its prevention.

To date, 20 projects have made submissions to the YPP committee, from suburban, inner city, and country regions. They represent a range of artistic mediums (including music, drama and visual arts) and juvenile justice and crime prevention issues.

Cath Cantlon, a community artist who was employed as a project development officer on a part-time basis for three months, through funding from the Crime Prevention Unit, has been employed as the Expo Project Co-ordinator until June this year.

Artists who have experienced in working with young people and in particular with young offenders, will be employed on a contract sessional basis to provide artistic direction and support to individual projects.

The project is based on the Crime Prevention Unit's philosophy of partnership in addressing issues of crime prevention and is seeking funding from other government departments which have a portfolio to address youth or crime issues.

The State Youth Strategy and State Youth Affairs have jointly provided funds toward the project, and Carclew Youth Arts Centre has supported the project by providing accommodation for the co-ordinator and financial administration for the project on behalf of YACSA.

Come Out Youth Arts Festival Committee will provide resource support such as publicity, venues and equipment.

The corporate sector will be invited to be involved in the project by sponsoring individual projects for the Expo through the provision of funds for materials.

An example of the work being produced by young people for the Youth Expo.



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