

YOUTH OFF THE STREETS



Father Chris Riley's

Youth Off The Streets®

BACKGROUNDER



Youth Off The Streets is helping disconnected young people to discover greatness within, by engaging, supporting and providing opportunities to encourage and facilitate positive life choices.

Youth Off The Streets is a community organisation working for young people aged 12 to 21 who are facing challenges of homelessness, drug dependency, exclusion from school, neglect and abuse. We provide a range of services to support these young people as they work to turn their lives around: It is our goal that these young people will leave our care drug-free, with a high school education, living skills and a full or part time job in hand.

Since opening in 1991, Youth Off The Streets has grown from a single food van delivering meals to young homeless people on the streets of Kings Cross to a major youth specific agency providing a wide range of services offering a full continuum of care.

We provide crisis care for young people still living on the streets with our food van, youth refuge and outreach programs. We also operate an innovative drug and alcohol program specifically designed for young people. Our accredited independent high schools in Surry Hills, the Southern Highlands and Merrylands provide flexible educational opportunities and support for young people living on the streets or who are unable to attend mainstream high schools. Many of these young people go on to successfully achieve their School Certificate and, in increasing numbers, their Higher School Certificate.

Our medium to long-term residential rehabilitation programs, located in the Southern Highlands and the Hunter Valley provide support for young people who have made the commitment to living a drug and crime-free lifestyle. While they are in our care, the young people attend school as well as receiving counselling, life skills and vocational training.

Once they are ready to leave the residential programs, we offer a semi-independent living and mentoring program designed to help young people engage in further study or to find meaningful employment. We also provide an Aftercare service to support young people who have left our services as they begin to live independently.

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Our YOTSAS - Youth Off The Streets Aboriginal Services – program responds to the specific needs of Indigenous young Australians and the high levels of disadvantage they experience.



Recognising the value of early intervention, we have established a Scholarship program to help talented yet disadvantaged young people to pursue their dreams. We have also developed a range of early prevention resources for schools and youth groups, including the GetReel drug and alcohol education kit, and YOUth Making a Difference, which encourages young people to develop positive values and put them into action in their own communities.

We are very honoured to have the former Governor General of Australia, Sir William Deane and Lady Helen Deane as our patrons.

Youth Off The Streets Services:

- Food van
- Community Development / Outreach services
- Crisis refuge
- Drug and alcohol treatment program
- Medium to long-term residential programs
- Residential treatment program for young sex offenders
- Accredited specialist high schools
- Skills development and alternative learning centre
- Semi-independent living and mentoring program
- Aftercare
- YOTSAS - Youth Off The Streets Aboriginal Services
- Scholarship program for disadvantaged youth
- Young Parenting Program
- Annual national conference for professionals working with young people
- Early intervention and prevention resources for schools and groups nationwide
- Childcare centres in Indonesia and East Timor for displaced children
- Service Learning program to enable youth to make a difference.

If you would like to find out more about Youth Off The Streets and the range of programs and services we provide please contact our

Development Office: **(02) 9330 3500** or
info@youthoffthestreets.com.au

PO Box 6025, ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015 or visit our website www.youthoffthestreets.com.au

Youth Off The Streets operates with a cost of fundraising of 11%.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.