



## Fact Sheet

### Reconnect – Far West

Updated: 1 June 2010

Reconnect is an early intervention homelessness service, working with young people aged between 12-18 who are disconnected from their families or education. Reconnect works one-on-one or providing group work such as self esteem workshops, anger management programs, sexual health and drug and alcohol intervention.

#### Target Groups

Reconnect works with young people aged between 12-18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness living in Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Menindee. Reconnect focuses on early intervention support, family reconciliation and connection into meaningful education.

Referrals are accepted from service providers and self referral.

#### Service Activities

Reconnect delivers a range of one-on-one case management and support focusing on personal development, development of independent living skills, access to diverse educational experiences, support and mediation. Reconnect also delivers group based programs focussing on sexual health/personal safety, anger management, self esteem, living skills and cooking. Reconnect works closely with the Department of Education and Training as well as independent schools to provide a holistic model of care and enhance community capacity building.

#### Outcomes

##### Case Study:

A young male was referred to Reconnect from the Centrelink Social Worker, presenting with homelessness. The client had only attended school for a total of four days the previous year. Mission Australia supported the young person to obtain accommodation and delivered an in-home based living skills program. The Reconnect approached the young person about school attendance, and supported the young person to be interviewed by the school principal, and work on a reengagement plan back into school. With the support of Reconnect, the young person has attended school everyday this year and has recently topped the class in a maths exam.

##### Community Capacity Building:

Mission Australia created a partnership with Industry and Investment NSW, and the Wilcannia Central School to provide a two day fishing workshop as part of the students educational experience, learning about river systems and river health, and as an

engagement strategy for young people to attend school and create positive partnerships with their teachers.

The first day of the workshop had approximately 20 students attend school, while the numbers raised to approximately 50 for the second day. The school principal had reported that the attendance rate was amazing and reflected how positive it was for young people to be provided with positive, culturally appropriate education and recreational activities.

#### Funding Sources

Reconnect is funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs.

#### Mission Australia

Mission Australia is one of the nation's leading charities and community service organisations, having helped change the lives of individuals and families in need for almost 150 years. Mission Australia's vision is 'to see a fairer Australia by enabling people in need to find pathways to a better life'. Mission Australia currently operates more than 450 services throughout metropolitan, rural and regional Australia – in every state and territory. Our services are made up of community, employment and training services aiming to provide:

- Pathways away from homelessness;
- Pathways to strong families and healthy, happy children;
- Pathways through a successful youth;
- Pathways to skills and qualifications; and
- Pathways to sustainable employment

#### Contact Information

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