



## Their Stories...



"I feel more confident now. My self-esteem has been boosted heaps. I've learnt a lot of new things and I feel better within myself."

Jane\*, Glugor House Client



"Glugor House has given me the opportunity to learn parenting skills, and being a good parent is really important to me."

Sarah\*, Glugor House Client



"The Parenting programs at Glugor House helped me to handle my son's behavioural problems and gave me practical techniques I could use. I decided to re-start my education and finish my HSC and now I'm completing a Cert III in Community Services."

Bec\*, Glugor House Client

\*Names changed to protect privacy

# Message

From General Manager of  
Counselling Services

If you saw a young mum at the shops with crying toddlers, would you give a thought to how she's feeling inside? Would you wonder about whether she knows ways to calm her children? Would you wonder if she needs support?

BoysTown has two centres where we work with young Mums and Dads, located at Deception Bay in South East Queensland and Port Pirie in South Australia.

Our Parenting Programs teach what it means to be a parent. Mums and dads learn about their responsibilities, some of the great things to celebrate with their littlies, and what they can do when their day seems long and filled with uncertainty.

Have you considered how hard it is to go through each day without feeling good about yourself and not knowing where you can access support?

Many of the young parents who come to us have never had the experience of keeping children safe, of being a positive role model, or even being aware how they can prepare low cost, nutritious meals.

We work with parents from disadvantaged backgrounds and help them grow the skills needed to improve their own and their children's health, safety and resilience. We help them to see the world as a place of opportunity for themselves and their children.

Our parenting programs receive no Government funding. They are entirely made possible through the support BoysTown receives from the community.

In 2004, through the generous support of a family who donated a house, our Glugor House program commenced. Over the past seven years, this service has only been able to grow and thrive through your ongoing support. This month, we were proud to complete the construction of a new Parenting Centre at Deception Bay.

In 2008, we opened our second parenting service, in Port Pirie, South Australia. Again, your donations have ensured that we could employ qualified staff and provide this vital resource.

We have set ourselves a goal of providing more parenting programs in the disadvantaged communities in which we deliver some of our other services. Children need it and deserve it. Young parents need it and deserve it.

Thank you from all of our young Mums and Dads, and from all of our staff.

Wendy Protheroe  
Counselling Services, General Manager



## BoysTown gives thanks for 50 Years



On Sunday, 22 May close to 100 De La Salle Brothers, staff, their families and friends celebrated BoysTown's 50th anniversary at a Thanksgiving Mass at St Brigid's Church, Brisbane.

BoysTown Chief Executive Officer, Tracy Adams said it was a great day of celebration and pleasing to see so many enjoying the occasion.

"Our jubilee is an important celebration because it helps us pause to reflect on what we have achieved over the last 50 years," she said.

"None of our achievements would have been possible without the dedication of those who have gone before us and the people who are part of BoysTown today.

"It was wonderful to see so many Brothers, staff – both past and present – their families and community supporters come together to celebrate our past and be inspired for the future."

The service was conducted by Archbishop of Brisbane, John Bathersby. In his Homily, the Archbishop paid

tribute to the good work of BoysTown workers, emphasising the importance of giving kindness and demonstrating to others why this is important.

"We are made to love through acts of kindness and goodness and to help people know why we do good," he said.

"Let us rejoice in the good that has been done over the last 50 years by the De La Salle Brothers, the lay people, the teachers, the benefactors, all of those people who from the start made BoysTown the excellent college it was, and later the excellent outreach of BoysTown through Queensland and Australia."

Tracy Adams said it was fitting the organisation celebrate being 50 by offering prayers of thanks.

"We have much to be thankful for, having grown from humble beginnings in a small Queensland town, to sites at many key locations across Australia," she said.

"May we provide those in need of our help with support and acts of kindness for many years to come."

The next community celebration is BoysTown's 50th Anniversary Fundraising Gala Ball in September. Visit [www.boystown.com.au](http://www.boystown.com.au) or call 1800 555 079 for more information.

## Parenting House supports South Australian families

Port Pirie in regional South Australia has a higher than average number of young parents. To help equip them with the skills needed to raise a family, BoysTown operates our Parenting House.

Parenting House lead worker and manager Jo Vanstone said research has shown that without good parenting models people are not always equipped to cope with raising a child.

"We try to break the cycle of marginalisation by educating them on everything from what to expect during pregnancy and birth, through to how to care for themselves and their baby," she said.

Beginning more than three years ago as a Young Mum's Group operating one day a week, the house now provides programs and services five days a week. We have also been able to more than double

the number of families we support, currently assisting 23 young families, including fathers, and 15 babies.

Ms Vanstone said young parents are faced with challenges ranging from social isolation to financial hardship and are often reliant on income from the government.

"Our programs help equip young families with coping methods for some of these challenges and provide support to enable them to make better choices," she said.

The Parenting House works in conjunction with the hospital and other allied health professionals to provide young parents with a range of skills and comprehensive information about the local services available to them.



The Parenting House only exists through your generous support - it is entirely funded by BoysTown.

Please donate to the BoysTown Appeal today

visit [www.boystown.com.au](http://www.boystown.com.au) or Free call 1800 552 033