



media release



BoysTown

22 June 2010

Reducing drug and alcohol use on a local level

This Drug Action Week (20 - 26 June) BoysTown is working with the Logan community to reduce the damaging effects of alcohol and drug use.

Alcohol and Other Drug Counsellor Gerhard Aubort started at BoysTown's Logan office this month linking with young people, their families and carers, and the community about drug and alcohol related issues.

"We offer counselling, outreach support, education and activities and will be training staff to be more effective in dealing with young people experiencing drug and alcohol issues," he said.

"Another key part of my role will be the development of strong links with other local support services and with the Logan City Council to target hard to reach young people.

"Both one-on-one and community-based interventions are required to address the individual and broader social issues leading to drug and alcohol use."

General Manager of BoysTown Counselling Services Wendy Protheroe said drug and alcohol use has the potential to cause a range of physical, psychological, emotional and social harm.

"Aside from physical consequences such as kidney, liver and heart damage young drug users face a heightened risk of committing, or falling victim to, a violent crime, suicide, self injury and infectious diseases," she said.

Research being conducted in partnership with Griffith University has surveyed 400 young people engaged in BoysTown's own employment and training programs and found 34 per cent consumed illicit drugs in the month before joining the organisation.

"One in five of them had experienced issues at work or school as a result of excessive alcohol and/or drug use," Ms Protheroe said.

"With that evidence, and the support of the Queensland Government, BoysTown is offering more specialist support for young people with drug and alcohol issues.

"We are committed to offering multidimensional services that recognise the complex needs of individuals and these extended drug and alcohol services will strengthen the support we offer."

BoysTown is a youth welfare and advocacy agency which provides a range of services including counselling, employment, education and training, youth work, social development and life skills.

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