

Community Work Partnership Awards 2008
Repay, Rehabilitate, Reintegrate
Transcript of DVD

PART 2 : Chapter 1, Repay

Sonia Chudiak, Melbourne City Mission / Awards Judge

“a good partnership is when you get a group of people or organisations that can bring their specialities together”

Kelvin Anderson, Commissioner, Corrections Victoria, Department of Justice

“ a good community work partnership in my view has got trust on both sides”

Taryn Escreet, Judy Lazarus Centre

“ from our perspective on both side, what makes a good sort of relationship is just open communication about everything that is going on”

Sonia Chudiak

“communication is definitely one of first things in having an openness and I guess having a transparent processes within the leading group of the partnership”

Dianne Aitkin, Lort Smith Animal Hospital

“with the dogs, especially with some of the dogs, they are a bit harder to place in our foster care program, they have more special needs, humm and that’s where Judy Lazarus Centre contacted us”

Jason MacLeod, Graffiti Removal Program, Corrections Victoria

“we have partners with 18 local council, also with VicRoads, Connex, Department of Transport, Department of Human Services”

Taryn Escreet

“we definitely had some learnings, through things that have happened and things that we could have managed differently, and I think its having the open dialog about that stuff and not sort of having egos, just being prepare to put it out there and work it through together, is for me is the key

Phillip Pedder, Fulham Correctional Prison

“september last year we got a lot of rain up in the hills, the gates didn’t open at the weir so it flooded out the Newry, Tinamba, Maffra and Sale areas. We did 16, 16 weeks of flood relief where we built fences, we built sheds, there was 8 or 10 prisoners pulled cows out of trees,.....we did lots”

Jason MacLeod

“community get engaged into the program, we have similar models running purely on volunteer base, so whilst we’ve been a pilot ship for community work program in safety and work skills we have also been a flag ship for the community because they are setting up programs very similar to what were running using a volunteer base”

Dianne Aitkin

“obvious we can look after more animals, so they’re are looked after an animal in a safe and secure environment, it is exceptionally well look after, so the animal is great when it gets returned back, back to it’s owner

PART 2 Chapter 3, Rehabilitate**Kelvin Anderson**

“the first that we are concerned with in Corrections is that we always have a safe and secure system and we go to great lengths to make sure our Community Corrections and prisons are safe facilities. However once we have done that, then we are honour bound to attempt to rehabilitate either offenders or prisoners and am pleased to say that Victoria’s recidivism rate has come down and that’s no doubt due to the investment we have made in rehabilitation programs”

Sonia Chudiak

“I think that if you are going to have those programs in prison and working in partnerships, I think that rehabilitation has to be the essence of what you doing because you don’t want people coming back to prison”

Taryn Escreet

“it’s funny that the guys will say that the dogs are there for their own rehabilitation in away because like for them its about transition from Lort Smith back to their owner, so the guys draw a bit of a parallel there”

Sonia Chudiak

“giving the people the opportunity to learn skills and I guess to develop themselves is paramount in being successful in getting back out to the community and living a meaningful law abiding life”

Taryn Escreet

“to come into Judy Lazarus and actually be responsible for an animal, were you have to make decisions about, you know, ok if I can’t be there for tonight, who can I ask to walk the dog to make sure the dog gets walked and you know making sure that they are fed, watered and their beds are made properly and all that stuff. Not only considering themselves, but considering someone else as well”

Rob Van Os, Reverse Art Truck Inc

“the feedback that I have had from a lot of offenders, is that they love coming here, and that they want to volunteer afterwards because they have felt they are really achieving something, actually working at something and its gives them a sense of self worth”

Phillip Pedder

“and they come out here with a lot of ambitions on where they are going, they’re learnt a new trade, with some ambition that when they get out what they’re going to

do, I just love it and reckon it's great. It's something that I really enjoy doing it and hope the guys enjoy doing it as well"

PART 2 : Chapter 4, Reintegrate

Kelvin Anderson

"reintegration into the community is a slow process for prisoners and virtually, its starts from the first time they enter into the prison, we've preparing for release virtually from day one"

Andrew Barber, Colac Otway Shire

"one of the biggest things that Colac Otway Shire and Geelong Correctional Service don't hear a lot about is the number of jobs that have actually come out of this program"

Sonia Chudiak

"the stand out in terms of reintegration were programs, where people were learning job skills"

Phillip Pedder

"this gives them a chance to show that yes they can get out into the community and the community will accept you for who you are and not what you have done"

Andrew Barber

"I've had phone calls from people who have got assistance manager jobs in Colac which the people have rang up and said, what's this person like and I said, never missed a day, worked right through, fantastic, even though this person has done something wrong I totally trust them and just the satisfaction of getting a phone call a week later saying, hey I got the job, thanks heaps"

Kelvin Anderson

"when they are in our custody we do attempt to gradually reintegrate them back into society, and one vital way we can do that is by their involvement in community work projects, that allows them to start too interact with the community in a supervised sense....they repay for their crime, they feel better about that, society is also more confident in the system, but ultimately it means the transition back into the community is a lot smoother for the prisoner"

Phillip Pedder

"a lot of the community, 90%, I suppose of the community actually accepts them now, they are part of the community now and the guys are realising it and the community realises it..... it's really really good....it's just getting bigger..... it's just growing so much"

Kelvin Anderson

"a prisoner that's integrated well into his community is far less likely to reoffend"

PART 2 : Chapter 5, Memorable Moments

Phillip Pedder

“the best story is the floods, to have these guys, the prisoners to come from the city out in there and just get out there, pulling the cows out of the trees. And I mean, I’m 6 foot 5 and the trees where as tall as I am, the cows stuck up in the trees that high and they had no qualms about getting up, putting a chain around, pulling the cow, getting the cow out of the tree and buried them ”

Andrew Barber

“lake level were going down, salt levels were going up, and the carp that were swimming up the Barongarook creek which runs right through the middle of our town, were getting trapped, so suddenly all the fish were then dying in masses. And we got down there and started collecting all these dead fish....tons upon tons of fish from November, right through to February. We have taken out of Barongarook creek approximately 120 ton of fish, we took them out just using pitch forks, putting into trucks and taking them out and putting into landfill”

Dianne Aitken

“we had an information night with some kittens, and all the guys that were interested came along. We had little tiny kittens about 5 or 6 weeks old that fit in your hand and here were all these big burly blokes, tats all over them and they started with the kitten there (on their knees),...’Oh yeah kittens’, by the end of the night they were all cuddling and smuggling them....it was lovely, just really lovely”

Rob Van Os

“one stands out in particular, was a young lass, who was very early 20’s, she came in on a drug offence of some sort, she was living with another guy who was heavily into drugs, she had a young baby and she was a mess....she was with us for nearly 12 months. Even now 5 or 6 years later she comes back to say thank you...you have changed my life right around. To now she is working, recently got married, haven’t been on drugs for 5 years, her boy has gone from a baby to a little kid who comes and gets stuff. Parents even come and thanks us for helping, so that’s is my all time favourite, cos it was a complete turn around, she turned into this lovely young girl, that’s working, loves life and hasn’t touched drugs in 5 years”