Full Circle

Working with Aboriginal clients in the integrated Drug and Alcohol Youth Service

Rosanna Bolton – Aboriginal Mentor

Integration

History:

- Next Step Youth
- Yirra
- Youth Withdrawal

Benefits of an Integrated Service:

- Clients
- Referrers
- Staff

My Role

- Assessment
- Case management
- Mentoring/ outreach
- Supporting Aboriginal Young People
- Consultation and Training for Staff
- Racism awareness with young people
- Interagency Liaison
- Supporting Aboriginal Community programs

Cultural Appropriateness

- Youth Friendly
- Offered Assessment by Aboriginal worker
- Holistic service –
  - Involve family
  - Work with other agencies
  - AOD and other issues including mental health
- Staff participate in and undertake Cultural Awareness Training

Referrals

- Contact Duty officer 1300 651 329
- Assertive follow up
- Referral Criteria
  - Age
  - Location
  - Substance use having significant impact
  - Young person’s motivation
- Who can refer:
  - Anyone

1 300 651 329
if you don’t want to slip,
stay away from slippery places.
Drug And Alcohol Youth Service
keeping you in the dry zone.

YOUNG PERSONS STORY

- "... *first I was in jail and I thought that this was the end of my life…here I would be facing 12 months of detention… I would have been pissed off and I would have just given up on my life and would have hurt all the drugs I could get my hands on…I got chosen to come to YIRRA...best thing that happened to me, this place rocks, good people work here, they help me when I feel down and f***ed up but this is cool they help me get off the drugs and change my life for myself ..its helping me learn there is a better life than using drugs and being in jail…" (week 5)*

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