



love in action



**YOUTH INSEARCH FOUNDATION (AUST) INC.  
2011 – 2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**A trust walk at a Youth Insearch program.**

## **YOUTH INSEARCH FOUNDATION (AUST) INC**

The Report of the Board of Management of the Youth Insearch Foundation (Aust) Inc for the year ended 30 June 2012.

### **STAFF**

#### Administration

Heath Ducker	Chief Executive Officer
Rick Hose	General Manager
Ron Barr AM	Founding Director
Judith Barr OAM	Director Programs
Nicole McInnes	Program Coordinator
Briar Ward	Admin Programs
Daniel Barnard	Admin Programs
Annette Brand	Office Assistant
Rob Bartlett	Caretaker Kurrajong Heights Retreat
Sandra Hearn	Accounts

#### Community Coordinators

Megan Johnston	Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Brisbane
Ben Lodewikus	Fitzroy, Wide Bay-Burnet, Central West
Julia Smith	Tamworth/New England
Sharon Schofield	Gippsland, Heidelberg and Melbourne

### **BOARD**

The members of the Board of Management during the year are listed in the financial statements on page 12.



## **CEO'S REPORT**

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2011-2012 Annual Report.

Youth Insearch is a humble organisation started by one man and a group of teenagers in the small town of Riverstone in north-west Sydney in 1985.



Youth Insearch had such an impact that during the 1990's it grew nationwide and even expanded into New Zealand. Around the year 2000, Youth Insearch contracted slightly, before experiencing another decade of significant growth to 2010.

The result is that over 26,000 young people have had the opportunity to attend a Youth Insearch program and turn their lives around. This is an extraordinary achievement for an organisation of such humble beginnings.

Youth Insearch entered another period of contraction this year, consequent to a need to institute some fundamental changes in administration and governance to ensure future growth and stability. These changes have been successfully implemented, and reflect the ability of the Foundation to successfully adapt to change and respond to best practice. As a result the Foundation is now well placed for another decade of growth and delivery of exceptional youth programs. This is an outstanding achievement given the challenges of the past year.

My thanks goes to the Board of Directors and our volunteers whose dedication to Youth Insearch has been unwavering and without whom this would not have been possible. I also acknowledge Ron and Judith Barr who have given so much over the years and had such a huge impact on a great many lives.

### **PROGRAMS**

Over the past 12 months Youth Insearch has run 7 weekend programs across NSW, QLD and VIC. This equates to 404 visits by young people to the various programs.

### **FINANCIAL RESULTS**

Our total income this year was \$842,038 which represents a decrease of 45% compared to last year. Total donations were \$310,918 down 68% on last year. Expenditure for the year was \$1,027,769, which is 35% less than last year. Youth Insearch made a net loss of \$185,731, but we have a very positive balance sheet with total assets of \$1,642,793 as against total liabilities of \$661,679 leaving a positive net asset position of \$981,114. These negative results were expected consequent to the recent restructure. We expect a positive result next year with the successful completion of the restructure, the consequent reductions in expenditure, and the return to normal program delivery. Attached to this report are the independently audited accounts for the 12 months to 30 June 2012.

## **GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Youth Insearch received government funding of \$400,000 during the year from FaHCSIA. This funding supported the delivery of the programs during the year and the internal reviews and changes. We are very appreciative to the Federal Government and FaHCSIA for this funding and their support during the year which made the organisational improvements possible.

## **FUNDRAISING**

In addition to the Federal Government, we received funding from trusts, foundations, individuals, corporates, community organisations and bequests. Major donors during the year were:

### **Trusts and Foundations**

Thyne Reid Foundation  
Matana Foundation for Young People  
Kel & Rosie Day Foundation  
Perpetual Foundation  
St George Foundation  
The Rodney & Judith O'Neil Foundation  
Woolley Charitable Trust

### **Corporate Support**

Network of Caring  
Office of Liquor Gaming & Racing  
Fruition Hair  
Inghams Enterprises  
Myer Blacktown and Castle Hill  
Kuhn Holdings  
Laurel Productions Pty Ltd  
Gadens Lawyers

### **Community Support**

Rotary Club of Bundaberg  
Rotary Club of Tamworth  
Rotary Club of Ku-Ring Gai  
Rotary Club of Como-Jannali  
Lions District 201 Q3  
Lions District 201 Q4  
Canterbury Leagues Club

### **Individuals**

Peter Rockey  
Anthony Windsor MP (Federal Member for New England)

John Robertson  
Christine Maher  
Thomas Moon  
HD Chift  
Julian Myers  
Michael & Rosemary Tabak  
Robert Clemesha  
Alistair Forsyth

Thank you to all our donors. This year your donation ensured Youth Insearch survived and can continue to help young people turn their lives around.

**Heath Ducker**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



**A supportive group hug at a Youth Insearch program.**

## **PROGRAM REPORT**

It is with great excitement that I returned to Youth Insearch this August.

I was employed as Program Coordinator in 2003 for 3 years and to be asked to return was a great honour and an amazing offer that I graciously accepted.

Employees, leaders and support people have both come and gone but it is a nice welcome back to have seen some familiar friendly faces still around supporting the participants and the wonderful work of the organisation.



I am passionate about the program and all it aims to achieve and believe in young people helping other young people overcome their obstacles and challenges in a safe, friendly and loving environment.

Young people naturally want to “hang out” with their peers. Being with other young people in a controlled environment and being able to build healthy relationships helps them to learn, grow and develop new skills and life lessons which is often a source of significant positive experiences.

Youth Insearch brings together a wide variety and diversity of young people from completely different backgrounds and upbringings and provides a space for them to share experiences, connect with one another and realise they are not alone and most importantly start the process of making positive changes in their lives.

I look forward to furthering the efforts of those before me, and ensuring the programs continue to operate successfully to assist the many hundreds of young people that need to be shown some “*love in action*”.

### **RECENT FUNDING**

Youth Insearch recently received funding of \$1.6 million over 4 years from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). This funding commenced on 1 July 2012 and will continue through until June 2015.

During this period we aim to support 700 young people per annum who will participate in programs throughout New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. We will run 12 weekend programs and 2 Leadership Training workshops to meet this target.

### **PROGRAMS**

There have been 7 successful programs held this financial year. The programs delivered in the first half of 2012 were funded by the Rotary Club of Tamworth. Thanks to Ron Carr for arranging this funding and also 2 new nurses for the Tamworth programs.

We have 5 more weekend programs scheduled for the remainder of 2012 in NSW, VIC and QLD. We are extremely excited about these, as always there is a very high demand for the programs.

For our leaders that share their skills with others and give their time to the program that was part of the process of change for them – **THANK YOU**. Your harmonious efforts do not go un-noticed

particularly through hard times. You are all an inspiration to the program and thank you for all of your hard work and achievements over the last year.

Lastly, to the dedicated support people that give up their own weekends time after time to support groups of young people, and provide them with the love and care they need, are the ones that deserve huge praise. Often their many hours of unpaid time and efforts cannot be put into words; they are truly the glue that binds the program together. We appreciate their ongoing support, energy and commitment to Youth Insearch.

### **OVERALL HIGHLIGHTS 2011- 2012**

- 404 participants
- The continued and strengthened relationships built with the Rotary Clubs of Kuring-Gai and Tamworth West in NSW and Lions Club Districts 201 Q4 and 201 Q3 in QLD
- 62.5% of participants said they no longer feel suicidal after participation in one or more programs assisting to decrease the Youth Suicide rate
- 86% of participants stopped drinking or chose to drink less after participating in one or more programs assisting to reduce the incidence of alcohol abuse in young people
- 84% indicated an increase in their self esteem
- 61.8% of participants felt they now had support when they needed it

### **PROGRAM COUNCIL**

During 2011/2012 it was decided to review the role of the program council and it was disbanded during the year for this purpose. Our thanks goes to the Program Council members for their time and commitment while the council was active. They were:

Dayna Seabrook	Areetha Fay - Tull
Bianca Watt	Clive Hayes
Kaitlyn Lodewikus	Craig Jobson
Brittany Sullivan	

### **LEADERS TRAINING**

Leaders Training again took place in 2011 with a number of successful young leaders completing the 2 stages of training and are currently undertaking their practical assessment phase.

The Leaders Training provides young people with a unique set of skills to increase their confidence, personal awareness and presentation and allows them to experience scenarios and activities which they will naturally call on and develop these skills in.

These skills include: - confidence, motivation, communication, passion, charisma, creativity, courage, public speaking and so much more. Delivery of the Leaders Training relies on a range of external trainers and internal facilitators.

The leaders go through a thorough application process and must have overcome all of their issues and barriers and be making positive choices in their lives in order to become a leader.

They have an understanding and appreciated of the work Youth Insearch aims to achieve.

They are also able to speak honestly and openly about their own challenges and journey and the positive direction they are heading in with the help of Youth Insearch.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Our dream and vision is and remains to be, a nationally operating organisation known for its ability to empower young people to take responsibility for their lives, by giving them the opportunity and skills to develop their self-esteem and play a positive role in society.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Sharon Schofield who has worked immensely hard with many hours spent volunteering, to help get the program back on track which has allowed me to ease into the role. Also to Ron Carr who has never given up on Youth Insearch and continues to advocate daily to secure funding support to be able to bring young people to the weekend programs.

To Sharon Schofield and Ron Carr, both hugely committed Youth Insearch volunteers, have assisted me with this report and to them I would like to say thank you.

I would like to finish with a quote from Sharon who summed up the year that has been.

***“Life is like a camera: focus on what’s important, capture the good times and develop from the negatives.”***

Alex Webb  
Program Coordinator



## **MOLLIE'S STORY**

The first youth Insearch camp I went to was 2 years ago now in Victoria.

Before I went on my first camp, I was struggling a lot with things life was throwing at me. I was battling depression, which caused me to self-harm and use illicit drugs on an everyday basis.

I was always skipping school and being extremely rude to everyone around me.



Through Youth Insearch, I have learned other ways of coping with my depression and many other things that arise on occasion. I have learnt to appreciate the little things that life throws at me and make the best of them. I learnt how to communicate with people properly and to set goals for myself.

For a year now, I have not skipped school, I have not self-harmed and I have not used any illicit drugs. I now have a really good relationship with my mum and sisters and have recently moved back with them after not living there for 3 years. I have set goals for myself for the future, and believe that I am capable of achieving them.

I have decided that I would love to become a youth worker to help young people like myself and many other people that I have met through Youth Insearch, to overcome the battles of life and to put a genuine smile on their faces.

Youth Insearch has helped change my life and I am so thankful to everyone involved in this program.

I also look forward to applying for and going through my Leaders Training next year.



## **REBECCA'S STORY**

I first heard about Youth Insearch when I was 14 through my Auntie who was running the Inverell Linking Together Centre. She was trying for months to get me to go to these camps and eventually I gave in so she would just stop asking me.

At first I thought they sounded stupid, and I really wasn't looking forward to spending the weekend without my friends and drugs, which had been my secret lifestyle for the past few years.

Before the camp I thought I had everything worked out, I was going to leave home and never see my family again, leave school and just be stoned all the time.

During the weekend I heard people's stories, some just like mine and others worse than I could have imagined.

I made the decision then and there to take control and change my life for the better. I wanted to stop the drugs and improve my schooling. I realised that the way I was behaving was not who I really was, and that smoking pot and not going to school was not how I wanted my life to be.

The leaders at the program were not what I thought they would be, instead they were just the same as everyone else in the room. They had all been through things in their lives and managed to pull through and I wanted to be like them. I hoped one day to be standing where they stood, speaking confidently and helping young people through their issues.

After a lot of hard work and support from Youth Insearch and through leaders training, that's exactly where I ended up. My school grades and attendance improved and I ended up with a better circle of friends, but most importantly I mended my relationship with my family.

I am now 21 years old and I have an amazing husband, a 13 year old stepdaughter and a 2 year old daughter of my own. My life couldn't be any better.

For the future I hope to work for Youth Insearch on the business side of things. Hopefully I can start my own support groups and funding here in Inverell as we no longer have that.

I have so much confidence thanks to my Youth Insearch training and just know I can be anything I try to be, always putting in 110%!