



ABSTRACT

Paper title: The Train Outreach Project: an innovative approach to drug and alcohol issues, young people and trains

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Abstract:

DrugARM WA is an agency that offers 'compassion, care, support and relief in the area of alcohol and other drug use and misuse for the whole community but especially to those who are marginalised by reason of age, gender or ethnicity'. Their youth program goes to places where young people are to offer support, education, advice and practical assistance. Their youth workers and volunteers attend leavers' week venues, and they run a bus-based service in Northbridge and in Rockingham. They operate a 'time out' centre for young people affected by drugs or alcohol, and also provide training and education programs to support young people who want to become drug-free.

As a result of a previous project on interagency collaboration funded by the Office of Crime Prevention WA, links were made between DrugARM WA and the Public Transport Authority of WA. These discussions led to the Train Outreach Project. The Train Outreach Project is an innovative service offered by DrugARM WA in conjunction with the Public Transport Authority of WA., whereby DrugARM staff and volunteers provide a service to young people on Friday and Saturday night trains between Cannington and Armadale.

The Office of Crime Prevention has offered funding to trial this project for a five- month period. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Hon Alannah MacTiernan launched the project on the 20th April 2007. The presentation will provide a description of the service, an outline of the evaluation framework, and an interim evaluation and progress report.