

NEWSLETTER



Changing the future for youth at risk

RISEUP is a new strategy developed by the NSW Police Commissioner, connecting disengaged young people to workplace opportunities.

RISEUP incorporates job-ready programs, mentoring and vocational training for at-risk youth aged between 15 and 18 to build their engagement with education, employment opportunities and the community.

Although our primary focus is to return young people into the education system, it is appreciated that there are youth who are less likely to return and would benefit more from assistance to facilitate them into employment. These young people are the key participants of the RISEUP programs, facilitated by the NSW Police Force and PCYC.

A new direction

Commissioner Mick Fuller has launched an ambitious youth strategy that will need the support of almost every police officer in this state.

Leveraging on the goodwill that the NSWPF has within industry and the wider community, Commissioner Fuller said this is a project that also relies on the support of large employers across the state.

RISEUP is a statewide initiative that aims to channel disengaged young people back into learning or training and finding sustainable jobs.

"Police in NSW have an extensive history of diverting youth at risk and influencing their decisions," he said.

"Every frontline police officer knows who the troubled kids are in their area, those who follow the wrong crowd and make the wrong choices," he said. "The very nature of our job puts us in direct contact with these kids – and that means that we have an opportunity to make a difference, firstly through programs like those offered through Youth & Crime Prevention Command (YCPC) and then through opportunities offered by RISEUP."

The foundations of the initiative



focus on early intervention to prevent and disrupt crime. It is a collaborative approach with PCYC and industry leaders to achieve positive outcomes for young people and divert them from the criminal justice system. The establishment of a direct pathway to employment strongly supports the government's policy to ensure young people are learning, in training or working.

The final stage in RISEUP is the opportunity for participants to be connected to employment or further opportunities to enhance employment capability. This is the stage that will give purpose to the entire journey the young person has progressed through, as it provides them with a strong sense of achievement, pride, ownership and the ability to contribute to a team and their community. Most importantly it breaks the less fortunate cycle they would have otherwise followed.

How RISEUP works

The YCPC has consolidated a suite of programs as part of the RISEUP strategy.

The programs operate statewide in partnership with PCYC and encompass a range of strategies including early intervention, developmental crime prevention, positive relationships, support networking, functional numeracy, literacy, nutrition and behavioural workshops. They all include a job-ready component and link young people with employers.

Participants are supported by police youth case managers, PCYC youth workers and other specialist services to help them gain the skills required to land a job. The assistance, advice and leadership provided to youth can help tackle the underlying causes of offending behaviour and reduce crime and violence.

The programs are delivered with an alternative learning environment to build participants' commitment, resilience and motivation as well as essential employment skills through work

experience and exposure to industries and businesses.

In 2017-18, PCYC conducted 11 term-based programs which saw 88 participants graduate, and 30 white cards, 31 first aid certificates and 17 barista certificates completed.

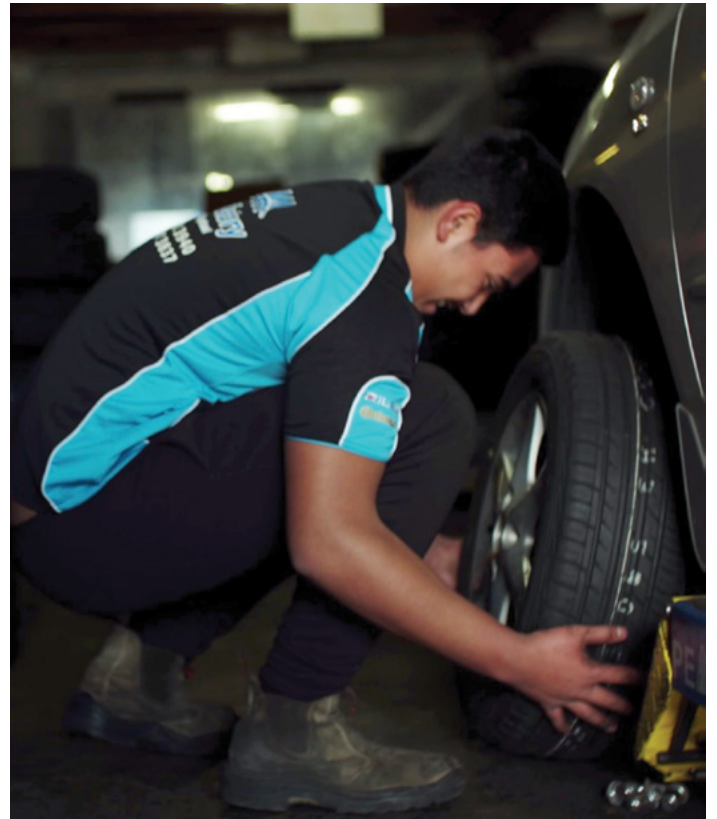
Thank you for getting involved

The success of RISEUP can be credited to the support of dedicated founding industry partners and local businesses, vocational trainers, youth workers and police youth case managers.

RISEUP is now supported by more than 30 businesses.

Since the launch of RISEUP in August 2018, 17 young people have gained employment (full time, part time and casual) and seven young people are completing work experience with a potential apprenticeship on completion.

www.riseup.org.au. ■



ABOVE 17 year old Jacob's father left when he was only four months old. He is now an apprentice mechanic and aspiring police officer



ABOVE 14-year-old Ibrahim lost both his parents at the age of four while escaping conflict in Africa. He's now planning to be a soccer star, and hopes to get a mechanics apprenticeship



ABOVE 18-year-old Lily volunteers as a gymnastics coach and PCYC activities officer, and is studying for a BA in Teaching



ABOVE 18-year-old Andrew is now an apprentice carpenter and aspiring builder who wants to give back to the community



Changing lives

The new Fit for Work program has had a profound impact on young lives in Mt Druitt.

STORY **TRACI PALLADINO**
POLICE MONTHLY

As part of the Commissioner's RISEUP strategy, a group of teenage boys from Bidwell have completed an intense three month Fit for Work course that includes two weeks of work experience.

RISEUP is a joint effort between NSW Police and PCYC to channel young people at risk back into learning or training, and finding sustainable jobs.

The course ran full-time four days a week and their attendance levels broke all records. Of the 18 boys who started, 17 completed the program, two have been accepted for an apprenticeship, and 15 have gone back to school either with part-time jobs, full-time employment lined up or are booked in for a series of work experience.

Mt Druitt Youth Case Officer, Snr Cst Brad Martin said the boys' visit to Liverpool Hospital was by far the most shocking experience in any of their lives.

"Not many situations can grab the attention of the rough-and-tumble boys from Mt Druitt, but I would say this one visit has absolutely changed their lives," he said.

Liverpool Hospital has partnered with the NSW Institute of Trauma & Injury Management to deliver the one-day PARTY (Prevent Alcohol & Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program.

"The boys heard from a neuro surgeon, emergency nurses and paramedics about the harsh reality of poor choices. They watched a shocking video of a surgery being conducted and then listened to the story of a trauma patient, a

budding NRL player who survived a devastating car crash and spent 18-months in rehab. It was very confronting stuff for these boys. They were told that of the 15 people under the age of 25 who are current patients at the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit at Liverpool Hospital, 14 are males."

Snr Cst Martin said the help and leadership participants receive on the Fit for Work course helps them to overcome their current challenges and divert them from the criminal justice system.

"As the Youth Case Manager, I work directly with the kids, their parents and schools. I run physical activities and sporting events, ferry them to and from training venues, organise a lot of meals and generally kept morale high.

"PCYC Trainer Greg Churchill facilitates all classes, including the general construction induction course (white card), Certificate 1 in Retail and a barista course, which is basically safe food handling for part-time employment.

"The third member of our team at Mt Druitt is PCYC Youth Worker Alex Mobbs, who helps participants with their resumes, organises job interviews and conducts short courses in communicating, managing budgets and general life skills for living out of home."

Snr Cst Martin said most of these boys are from broken homes and had almost stopped going to school.

"Now that they have a solid plan for their future, their attendance at school is breaking records. I'm very proud of each of them."



ABOVE The boys from Bidwell participated in a role-play exercise at Liverpool Hospital and spent time in the emergency room, intensive care and rehabilitation units to understand how it feels to have a severe injury or disability

ABOVE CENTRE All Fit for Work programs include several professional courses, including first aid, to give participants' resumes substance

ABOVE LEFT Also part of the RISEUP strategy, Fit for Life includes an early morning boxing session every Monday at Mt Druitt PCYC, after which everyone grabs a breakfast and heads to school



ABOVE The rope course was an icebreaker at the start of the nine-week program



Work experience at the Snowy Hyrdo



MAIN Four youths from Wagga Wagga Police District took a working tour of the Snowy Hydro's depot at Talbingo as part of the new Fit for Change program. The group was taken on a tour of the area and given details about Talbingo Dam, and the role it plays within the scheme, along with the checks and maintenance that's required daily



ABOVE Youth Case Managers from Wagga Wagga PCYC, Snr Cst Jovica Buinac (left) and Snr Cst Col Jacobs with a member of the Snowy Hydro team and two of the youths who are very excited to start a week of work experience



ABOVE At Tumut 3 Power Station they were given details about how the system works, and ended up being about 10 floors below ground level



ABOVE The group explored the types of trades and skills required to maintain and expand the system

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