



Charity Youth Programs

An Initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



Shine For Kids, *Silverwater* est 1982

The Shine for Kids' program fosters the development of emotional resilience and social skills in young children whose parents are in, or have been in prison.

How do they help young people at risk?

The SHINE for Kids Case Management and Transport Service (CMTS) aims to improve the child-parent bonds between children and their parents who have been incarcerated or are serving time in the NSW jail system. Results show that for children of prisoners, the period of initial separation from parents and the return home of their parents are vulnerable periods in children's lives.

The program consists of qualified transport workers providing guidance to these "at risk" children about the visiting area processes; providing support before, during and after visits and by helping mediate communications between children and their parents, to encourage positive emotional interaction between them. Counsellors also provide intensive, individualised support through Child / Parent Activity Days and offer them agency referrals and links to community services to further ensure their emotional, psychological and physical well-being that the child maintains

What is the project that PIF is funding?

The service involves transporting children to; visit their imprisoned parent(s) to attend support groups and facilitating personal mediation sessions between children and their parents. They are also given the opportunity to attend video conferencing counselling sessions and organised social events.

Counsellors help guide these "at risk" children through the psychological and physical changes in routine and their home environment which are resultant from having one or both of their parents incarcerated.

SHINE for Kids provides the opportunity for over 50 disadvantaged young people, at a time, to have contact with their parent in prison on a regular basis.

Why did PIF believe that the project needed funding assistance?

Property Industry Foundation acknowledges that Shine for Kids offer troubled children an inimitable service in NSW. Counsellors offer practical, ongoing support to help young people reconnect with, and maintain contact with their absent parents. Shine for Kids transports between 100-150 children to their incriminated parents each year, and are increasing their services to accommodate 40-60 more visits. The Supported Children's Transport Service allows traumatised children the opportunity to establish and maintain strong relationships and a healthy family environment.

Total cost of this project?

1st Year: \$50,000
2nd Year: \$60,000
3rd Year: \$60,000
4th Year: \$60,000

How much did the PIF Board approve for this project?

1st Year: \$50,000
2nd Year: \$60,000
3rd Year: \$60,000
4th Year: \$60,000