



Charity Youth Programs

An Initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), NSW est. 1880

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) NSW is part of the world YWCA network, which operates in over 125 countries around the world. They support disadvantaged individuals, families and communities across NSW with both early intervention programs and practical support at critical times. Their aim is to stop the transfer of intergenerational disadvantage, delivering innovative programs and services tailored to meet the needs of people living in NSW.

YWCA NSW's program Taking Control – Your life in Your Hands provides vital life skills for young people at critical times in their lives.

How do they help youth homelessness and young people at risk?

YWCA NSW works with extremely disadvantaged young people who are disconnected from the mainstream and are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, be prone to depression or suicidal tendencies and lack life skills critical to a productive life. Many lack the necessary skills to survive without community support services. The Taking Control –Your life in Your Hands Program demonstrates. Their early intervention approach provides young people with life skills including tenacity and self confidence, which are reinforced through training and education. Dedicated professionals also assist young people with housing, financial and employment opportunities

YWCA NSW "Y" takes a "Village" approach responding by breaking down barriers between services so that a mix of resources can be applied to help young people overcome crisis.

What is the program that PIF is funding?

Property Industry Foundation is funding YWCA's Taking Control – Your life in Your Hands Program. Skilled facilitators bring small numbers of 'at risk' young people together in a supportive and safe environment, encouraging them to reconnect to the community and continue their education. Workshops focus on identifying and developing positive characteristics in participants and challenging dangerous or harmful attitudes and behaviors.

Their Leadership Skills facilitators give young people the knowledge to reduce the likelihood of becoming homeless or involved in unhealthy risk taking behaviours, combat abusive relationships, communicate effectively and encourage personal growth. On an educational level, the facilitators improve these disadvantaged young people's chances of gaining employment by providing career, literacy and financial skills to encourage independence.

Mentoring is also a key component, providing young people with positive role models from both the corporate market and community groups, who are engaged to contribute to these workshops, providing practical advice and assisting young people in goal setting and future planning.

Why did PIF believe that the project needed funding assistance?

Property Industry Foundation recognises that YWCA NSW's community based approach and early intervention is crucial to these disadvantaged young people's wellbeing and future development. Over 93% of "at risk" young people have reported they learnt new effective life strategies. YWCA's programs are proven to help young people successfully overcome the cycle of disadvantage in developing long-term, sustainable behaviours to live healthier, more positive lives.

What is the total cost of this project?

\$150,000

How much did the PIF Board approve for this project?

\$100,000