

media release



13th April 2010

New scholarship for local homeless young people

ac.care announces a new scholarship to help keep local vulnerable young people out of disadvantage and homelessness to coincide with Youth Homelessness Matters Day, 14th April.

ac.care's 'Homeless Youth Resilience Scholarship' is an educational program with mentoring support. Homeless Youth Resilience is not a traditional scholarship by way of just giving financial assistance, rather it is about combining some financial support with personal support to see a young person continuing their education whilst they overcome many other challenges in their life. Initially the scholarship offered is \$1,000 per person, held in trust by ac.care, which will be used for educational and training purposes, such as course fees, text books, travel, equipment, uniforms. ac.care will also provide the personal support mentoring required to help young people give school or training another go.

The Homeless Youth Resilience Scholarship program is open now for nominations, with funds to be used by June 2011. ac.care will be calling on support workers to nominate young people who are at risk of homelessness or homeless and who want to work towards their learning and education.

“ac.care is part of a national movement to reduce youth homelessness. The young people who have the strength to continue in education when everything around them strives to stop them are invisible achievers. Young people who are struggling with their own survival at an early age often can't connect with learning and school and have nobody to encourage and support them to finish school or to go beyond school.

Learning stops the cycles of disadvantage and homelessness. The scholarship program will help young people to finish their education or give school another go. Students will gain the confidence to find work or move onto a trade apprenticeship or tertiary education. The program creates the beginning of a future to succeed and if we can provide the right help, they will be better equipped to manage the many difficult challenges in their lives and face the future with pride” said Rob Foggo, CEO.

Nominations for new scholarships will be available in December 2010 for the 2011 educational year. The Homeless Youth Resilience Scholarship program is open for young people 12-25 who are homeless and using a homelessness service. Initially one person from the Murraylands, Riverland and South East will be able to access the scholarship. “This is just the start and ac.care intends to grow this scholarship program” said Rob Foggo.

For more information on the program contact Graham Holloway, Manager Accommodation and Youth Services or for information about supporting via donations or partnerships contact Anne Hinkly-Tyler, Marketing & Communications Manager 8724 9211

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Media Contact | Jacinta Reid | ac.care Marketing Support Officer

P (08) 8724 9211 | F (08) 8725 5087 | M 0401 715 306 | E: anne@accare.org.au | www.accare.org.au

About ac.care

*ac.care was formed in Mount Gambier in 1986. ac.care is one of the few organisations created and run by rural people for rural people. We believe in getting in early to bring about change and have a philosophy of not just giving a hand-out or mopping up after a crisis - we build on people’s strengths. ac.care focuses on skill development, early intervention and prevention to make a real difference. We work towards providing opportunities for all who live in rural communities: for safe and stable accommodation, to continue or re-enter formal education, develop employment skills, strengthen family or personal relationships, children to be supported, nurtured and developed. ac.care’s current offices and community centres are in Mount Gambier, Millicent, Naracoorte, Bordertown, Murray Bridge, Berri and Waikerie. 60,000 people in (FY08-09) in the South East, Riverland and Murraylands of South Australia were supported through over 70 different programs and services that fall under one or more of ac.care’s 7 goals: **alleviating homelessness | building communities | promoting learning | reducing poverty| sharing cultures | strengthening families | supporting children.***