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ABOUT US

We support young people to make a positive difference in the world.

As a staff team and volunteer group of nearly six hundred, we support and equip young people to make a lasting difference in their communities and the world at large.

We fulfil our mandate by...

Offering direct relief to those facing serious social challenges.

Providing education and training programs.

Facilitating volunteer and service opportunities.

Working collaboratively with local communities.

Advocating for the best interests of young people.

We are motivated by our Christian faith and represent a rich variety of South Australian Christian communities.

At Encounter Youth, we feel privileged to impact the lives of thousands of Australian young people each year as we encourage them to make a positive impact in society.
CEO'S REPORT

A word from Nigel Knowles
Chief Executive Officer

I feel privileged to lead Encounter Youth through another year where we have supported thousands of young people to make a positive difference in the world. As a staff team and volunteer community of nearly six hundred, we are proud to support and equip young people to make a lasting difference in their communities and the world at large.

This has been a year of significant growth and consolidation across the whole organisation, building our excitement for what the future holds.

In July, we undertook the well overdue move of our office to 37 Angas Street, Adelaide. This has been made possible through the generous support of the property owners who wanted to enable Christian mission organisations to operate in the CBD at rental well below market rate. With the other diverse tenants and the frequent external visitors, our new office space has reinvigorated our staff and volunteer work.

We would like to sincerely thank Kings Park Community Church for the many years of support they provided to Encounter Youth while our office was based at their property.

Our 19th year of providing a safe celebration for the South Australian school leavers was again a great success. This Australian leading operation seems to go from strength to strength and wouldn't be possible without the incredible contribution of our volunteers. We are very grateful for the ongoing vital support The Motor Accident Commission (MAC) provided as Principal Partner of our Schoolies Festival™.
Once again it has been a privilege to work with the Schoolies Operation Stakeholders and Working Group members. Together we continue to ensure that South Australian young people can be the most supported in any Schoolies management response in Australia.

I’d particularly like to acknowledge the CEO of the City of Victor Harbor, Graeme Maxwell, who in November 2017 ended his 23-year tenure in his role. Graeme consistently provided support and encouragement to Encounter Youth as we have developed over the past 19 years. We wish Graeme the very best in his future endeavours.

Through the extension of existing partnerships and the establishment of new ones, both our Education and Hindley Street programs are well placed for significant advancement into the future. Both programs have entered into exciting 3 year partnerships with their respective state government departments. This is detailed further in the reports that follow.

Overall, Encounter Youth is well positioned to further advance our work impacting the lives of thousands of Australia young people as we encourage them to make a positive impact in the world. I’d like to thank the staff, board and volunteers for all their ongoing dedication and work that has made all this possible.

Nigel Knowles
This year our board team had two main focuses. Firstly, to expand our skill base in relation to governance experience, social innovation, and community partnerships. In late 2017 we welcomed Adrian Wuttke to the board. His long-term experience in organisational governance has already been invaluable to the function and output of the team. Rev. Elliot Keane joined the board in early 2018. His background in engineering, ministry and community development is well situated to support us as we consider future directions and partnerships for ministry.

The second focus was to apply to the Australian Taxation Office to become a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and gain endorsement as a deductible gift recipient (DGR). This is a significant undertaking that we are continuing to work through with the ACNC.

At the end of June, Keren Sutton concluded her service to the Encounter Youth board. Since 2013 Keren’s knowledge, wisdom and commitment have been invaluable. We thank her and her family for all they have given and wish them well. As a result of Keren’s resignation, I stepped into the role of chair and Adrian into the role of deputy in June 2018.

For almost 20 years Encounter Youth has existed to support young people to make a positive difference in the world. We highly commend Nigel, the staff team, our incredible volunteers and their church families, who breathe life into this mission. They are a privilege and inspiration to work with, and we thank them for the opportunity to do so.

Paula Love
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EDUCATION

This financial year has seen significant development in Encounter Youth’s education program. The 2017/18 financial year saw us deliver 122 seminars to 13,808 students in 62 schools across SA. This year we received significant recognition of our past achievements in education, along with ongoing support to position our Alcohol & Other Drug Education Program with a full best-practice approach into the future.

October 2017 saw our Party Safe Education program awarded a bronze award in the 2017 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention awards. This brought national recognition to the effectiveness of the program and its significant achievements over the previous 13 years.

In October 2017, Neighbourhood Watch SA came on board as the Principal Partner of Party Safe Education for the 2018 calendar year. In November 2017, Party Safe Education was a recipient of a three-year, $150,000 grant from Variety – the Children’s Charity through their newly established Sprout Fund. This funding is allocated specifically towards regional and disadvantaged schools in South Australia to reduce the cost of receiving our program. Negotiations towards the end of the 2017/18 financial year also yielded a three-year agreement with the State Government to support South Australian schools with our program.

This ongoing funding has allowed us to invest in the development of the program. In May 2018, we implemented a branding tweak to become Encounter Youth Education™ in recognition of the services we provide beyond simply ‘Party Safety’. Our standard program now includes education across a minimum of three high school year levels and incorporates education for staff and parents as well. This whole-of-school approach is recognised as a best-practice model and will help us to support more students and see a greater impact into the future.

HIGHLIGHTS

122 SEMINARS

13,808 STUDENTS

62 SCHOOLS IN SA
"Not long after students attended the party safe seminars there was an incident at a party at a student’s home. Another student that was there had been vomiting and was non-responsive. Students were wanting to phone 000 but the parents that lived there were saying not to because they didn’t want to get in trouble.

One of the students that had attended the seminars decided to call 000 even when the parents were yelling at them not to. The student that phoned ended up doing first aid until the ambulance arrived. The ambulance attended and the student was taken to hospital where they had to work on the student to keep them alive. If 000 was not called, there was a significant chance that the student could have died."

- STUDENT COUNSELLOR
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

STREET PROGRAMS

This year has seen a focus on stakeholder involvement and an increase in commitment within the Hindley Street Program. In July 2017, the Attorney-General commissioned the Office of Crime Statistics and Research (OCSAR) to evaluate the Hindley Street Program. This was an exciting opportunity for us to have an outside view on the effectiveness and key areas of development for the program. OCSAR used volunteer surveys, Hindley Street patron surveys, interviews with key stakeholders, program documentation, and quantitative data collected each week by Encounter Youth to analyse the program. Key findings from the OCSAR evaluation, released in September 2017, included:

81% of young people felt that the presence of Encounter Youth Green Team volunteers made them feel safer on Hindley Street.

All of the six stakeholders interviewed by OCSAR felt that the program had a positive impact on late night safety on Hindley Street on Saturday nights.

All of the stakeholders commented that they felt the program had improved the general feeling of safety on Hindley Street and that this was a positive outcome for patrons and venues, and for emergency services where patrons were referred to Green Team volunteers.

Most young people surveyed (74%) reported that they were very satisfied with their interaction with Green Team volunteers.

HIGHLIGHTS

81%
YOUNG PEOPLE FELT SAFER

100%
STAKEHOLDERS FELT WE HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT

74%
YOUNG PEOPLE WERE SATISFIED WITH THE GREEN TEAM
On Friday, 1st June, 2018 the Hindley Street Program entered into a three-year funding period with the Attorney-General’s Department and SA Police. This is a recognition of the important work we are doing on Hindley Street on a Saturday night.

We continue to receive positive feedback from patrons about the work we are doing on Hindley Street. One young male shared that Encounter Youth volunteers “saved his friend’s life” because of their intervention.

The program continues to be well supported by key stakeholders including the Attorney-General’s Department, SA Police, SA Ambulance, City of Adelaide, and now Consumer Business Services.
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCHOOLIES OPERATION

The 2017 Schoolies Operation was a great success. We had a focus on community collaboration within accommodation providers, on the Free MAC Schoolies Festival™ Bus Service and within the festival zone which continued to highlight the Operation’s ongoing accomplishments. Overall, the behaviour of school leavers improved while the number of major medical incidents decreased. With a focus on streamlining the volunteer application process we saw the continued mobilisation of 529 Green Team volunteers across the entire operation.

The feedback from school leavers, stakeholders and volunteers was positive. 78% of school leavers’ feedback recorded that Schoolies Festival™ 2017 was excellent.

Stakeholders reported that the Schoolies Operation was a successful event with implemented changes continuing to work well, in particular police management over the weekend. St John Ambulance numbers decreased in medical presentations.

Volunteer feedback demonstrated that 77% said the weekend was great, with over 80% of respondents stating that the behaviour of school leavers was good or excellent. The volunteers noted the highlights of being involved in Schoolies Operation 2017 were conversations with school leavers, seeing school leavers celebrate safely, working with other Green Team volunteers and bus drivers, and serving the community.

HIGHLIGHTS

529 GREEN TEAM VOLUNTEERS

5,000 SCHOOLIES FESTIVAL™ TICKETS

25,000+ BUS SERVICE BOARDINGS
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCHOOLIES OPERATION

"The highlight of Schoolies Festival for me was the amazing Green Team and the high energy they showed! They put me and everyone else around me in a better mood and was good having a dance with them! If anything was wrong they would attend to us and lifted our moods. Not to mention the DJs though! Best ever! So many different variety’s of song choices and something for everyone with the two different stages! On the tent stage, being allowed to go up on stage was an experience I’ll never forget!! :)

- 2017 SCHOOL LEAVER

"My highlight of schoolies was being able to celebrate finishing school with my close friends in a safe but fun environment. I enjoyed the buses running too and from the festival as I met so many people!"

- 2017 SCHOOL LEAVER

LET’S CONTINUE TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS.
PARTNERS

We would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their ongoing investment and contribution in our programs and services.

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

MAC

Government of South Australia

Neighbourhood Watch SA

a safe and connected community

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

variety

TABOR

WHITE MARQUEE

EVENT HIRE

nova 919
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their ongoing investment and contribution in our programs and services.

STATE GOVERNMENT
Attorney-General’s Department
Consumer and Business Services
Country Fire Service
Country Health SA
Department for Education
Metropolitan Fire Service
Safe Work SA
SA Ambulance Service
SA Health
South Australia Police
South Coast District Hospital
Western Australia Police

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Alexandrina Council
City of Adelaide
City of Victor Harbor

NON-GOVERNMENT
Adare Camp & Caravan Park
BIG 4 Port Elliot Holiday Park
Genesis Transport & Removals
NRMA Victor Harbor Beachfront Holiday Park
St John Ambulance SA
Victor Harbor Holiday & Cabin Park
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the following church communities for their ongoing support and prayer in our missional opportunities:

CHURCH COMMUNITIES

Aberfoyle Park Baptist Church
Adelaide City Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Adelaide West Uniting Church
Aldgate Baptist Church
Aldinga Bay Baptist Church
Aldinga Community Church of Christ
All Nations Baptist Church
Anchor Church Port Adelaide
Austral-Asian Community Church
Bayside International Church
Bethany Lutheran Parish
Bethel Lutheran Church
Blackwood Church of Christ
Blackwood Hills Baptist Church
Brighton Parish
Brooklyn Park Church of Christ
Brougham Place Uniting Church
C3 Church Adelaide Hills
Campbelltown Christian Reformed Church
Chinese Christian & Missionary Alliance Church
Church of the Nativity
Church of the Trinity Uniting Church
Clarence Park
Church@ParaVista
CityLight Church Glenelg
CityLight Church North Adelaide
CityReach Oakden Church
CityReach West Church
CitySoul Uniting Church
Clovercrest Baptist Church
Coast and Vines Church
Coromandel Valley Baptist Church
Drouin Presbyterian Church
Eden Valley Lutheran Church
Edge Church International
Edwardstown Baptist Church
Enfield Baptist Church
Faith Lutheran Church Warradale Freedom City Church
Gawler Lutheran Church
Glynde Lutheran Church
Golden Grove Lutheran Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Para Vista
Goolwa Christian Fellowship
Grace Norwood
Grange Baptist Church
H2One Baptist Church
Hackett Baptist Family Church
Hallett Cove Lutheran Church
Harvest Church Australia
Hawthorn Church of Christ
Holdfast Baptist Church
Immanuel College
Impact Church Victor Harbor
Influencers Church
Ingle Farm Baptist Church
Journey Uniting Church
King’s Baptist Church
Langmeil Lutheran Church
Tanunda
LifeForce Christian Outreach Centre
LifePoint Church
Lighthouse Community Church
Littlehampton Baptist Church
Lobethal Lutheran Church
Marion Church of Christ
Mawson Lakes Community Church
Native Valley Bible Fellowship
Nativity Catholic Church
New Community Church
North Western Community Church
Our Lady of Sacred Heart
Our Saviour Lutheran Aberfoyle Park
Parkside Baptist Church
Peace Salem Lutheran Church
Port Pirie Baptist Church
Portlife Church
Richmond Baptist Church
Riverland Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Romanian Bethel
Acknowledgements

Church Communities

Rosefield Uniting Church  St Michael's Lutheran Church  Victory Church
Rostrevor Baptist Church  Hahndorf  Vietnamese Christian & Missionary Alliance Church
Salisbury Baptist Church  St Paul's Lutheran Church Blair Athol  Village Church Norwood
Seaview Community Church  St Peter's Keyneton  Volksmission Mannheim
Seeds Uniting Church  St Petri Lutheran Church Nuriootpa  Westbourne Park Uniting Church
Source Church Stirling  Stansbury Community Church  Young Life
South Coast Community Church  Starfish Oz  Youth With A Mission
Spring Park Baptist Church  Tea Tree Gully Anglican Church  Zion Lutheran Church
St Anthony's Church  The Journey Uniting Church  
St Barnabas Croydon  Trinity Bay
St John's Forster Lutheran Church  Trinity City
St John's Lutheran Church  Trinity Grove
Capunda  Trinity Hills
St John's Lutheran Church Unley  Trinity Mount Barker
St John's Lutheran Church  Trinity South Coast
Woodside  Unley Park Baptist Church
St Joseph's Brighton  Victor Harbor Baptist Church
St Mark's Lutheran Church Mount Barker