



ERA REVIEW
APPROACH TO REDUCE THE RATES OF RECIDIVISM
Respondent: Jade Lewis & Friends Inc.
Dated: 24TH APRIL 2015

WHO WE ARE

Jade Lewis & Friends (Inc.), through the Yellow Ribbon Project for Second Chances campaign, exists to give female offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk of offending a second chance at life.

Board Contacts:

Chairperson: Mr. Peter Abetz MLA

Treasurer: Mr Jeff Pontifex State General Manager, Business Banking at ANZ

CEO: Jade Lewis, Founding CEO Jade Lewis and Friends Inc

(for full profiles of all Boards Member please visit www.yellowribbonproject.org.au)

Other contacts:

Guy Hall – Associate Professor Criminology Murdoch University (Evaluating the program)

Mr. Wade Reid – Superintendent Bandyup Women's Prison

Our Focus:

A not-for-profit public benevolent institution, Jade Lewis & Friends started in 2004 with a vision to help build drug, crime and violence-free Australian communities. Our work aims to assist Australian schools, the prisons, communities, businesses, young people and their families by raising awareness about youth drug and alcohol issues, providing drug prevention, family intervention and recovery strategies. Although based in Western Australia, the work goes right across Australia.

Our Impact:

- 2015 Winner Premier's Australia Day Award: Community Group Category
- Jade Lewis, The Founding CEO has won a number of awards including;
Inductee - WA Women's Hall of Fame 2011;
Winner - Pride of Australia Community Spirit 2010;
Winner - Belmont Business of the Year – Community Category 2010;
Finalist - Marie Clare Telstra Young Business Woman of the Year 2009.
- In 2014, there were 300 enrolments into Jade Lewis & Friends programs with over 80% continuous attendance & Friends are now a Department of Corrective Services preferred service provider.
- In addition to this work, since 2004 Jade has delivered a Just Say NO To Drugs Message to 2,500 Western Australian school classes.
- Jade Lewis has also authored two books, which has been distributed to over 700 schools across Australia.

Our Sustainability:

- Growth has meant that Jade Lewis & Friends moved from ABN (2004-2009) to Not for Profit status in 2010.
- 31% financial growth between 2013-2014 financials.
- 61% increase in Accumulated Funds allowing us to increase on our impact.
- Broad base of funding including ongoing corporate sponsorship, government funding, grants, award funding and regular donations.
- 1000 attendees at our annual Second Chance Day events since 2011
- 45 staff , volunteers and mentors who run programs in the prison every week and in the community
- Current and most recent partners include;
Department of Corrective Services (preferred supplier status);
Department of Local Government and Communities;
City of Bayswater;
Lotterywest;
Natio.
- City of Bayswater has given JLF a lease on an office property with minimal rent (\$1100 per year).





Timeline of Funding and Programs:

2014	Given \$30,000 by a local church to buy a work vehicle for the prison program
2014	Awarded an office lease with minimal annual rent (\$1100 a year) from which to run our organisation
2014	Awarded a Contract from Department of Corrective Services to run a life-skills program at Banksia Hill Detention Centre for 6 months
2014	Awarded a Contract from Department of Corrective Services to run a youth community diversion program for 3 months
2013	Awarded a Contract from Department of Local Government and Communities for Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program
2013	Awarded a Contract from Lotterywest
2012	Partnership with Chaplains at Bandyup Women's Prison to run a weekly Bible Study
2012	Awarded a Contract from Department of Sport and Recreation to Deliver a Cert 1 in Sports and Recreation to women at Bandyup Women's Prison
2012	Launched first big fundraising/awareness raising event - Second Chance Day
2011	Awarded Contract for Personal Development Program at Banksia Hill Detention Centre
2010	Awarded a contract from Natio Skincare and Makeup Range for facials on female participants
2010	Self esteem and Sporting Program for Girls at Rangeview Remand Centre
2009	Personal Development Programs at Bandyup commenced

Proposed Future Programs:

Grace Transitional Centre – The organisation is working towards establishing a residential transition centre for females who desire ongoing, intensive support on their release from prison. It is proposed that women will reside at Grace Transitional Centre for a period of up to 12 months in a fully supervised program, to help them to rehabilitate and readjust to life within the community. Discussions are currently in progress with the local council in relation to the undertaking of this proposed program.



Speaking Topics and Resources:

Golden Haze: Jade's Story

Under YOUR Influence: Parenting Teenagers into a drug and alcohol problem free life.

Jade has presented her Just Say NO To Drugs Presentation to over 1000 school classes since 2000. She has given away over 40 000 How to Say No to Drugs Brochures and has her books in over 700 Australian schools.

Awareness and Fundraising:

- Second Chance Day Yellow Ribbon Project - awareness and fundraising initiative to involve the community to give female offenders, ex prisoners and those at risk of offending a second chance at life.
- Second Chance Day Yellow Ribbon Project – Bandyup Women's Prison – awareness raising initiative to involve the female prison community to accept their responsibility in reconciliation back to community
- Speaking engagements and tours.



Background on Jade Lewis:

Jade's story is personal and her vision has been motivated by her own journey. Although she was a successful medal-winning International athlete at 15, she was lured into the drug scene after going to a rave party. She eventually became addicted to heroin by 18 and her life was became one of crime, violence and addiction. Her turning point came in 1999 when she entered the Teen Challenge WA program in 1999. In an effort to be the voice of inspiration to others, Jade went public with her story in 2000 and today has delivered a Just Say NO To Drugs Presentation to over 200,000 young people across Australia. Jade has also authored two books, which are in over 700 Australian schools. Today, Jade is happily married with 3 children.



Jade Speaking:

View excerpts of Jade, speaking at various conferences and schools, delivering her anti-drug message:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RZvCGCAZDk>

Background on Prison Programs:

Jade's work with prisons began in 2008, when an invitation came for Jade to visit some women serving time who had been reading her book. Jade began sharing her story with these women and looked for ways to provide them with further help and encouragement. From this experience Jade founded Jade Lewis & Friends, an organisation with a vision is to give female offenders, ex offenders and those at risk of offending, a second chance at life.

In 2009 she began to deliver a personal development program at Bandyup Women's Prison, and this was extended in 2010 to a sports program for girls at Rangeview Remand Centre. In 2013, Jade Lewis & Friends was awarded another contract with Department of Local Government and Communities to pilot a mentoring program to help female prisoners on their release from prison to a successful transition back to community. With the success and growth of the prison and community programs The City of Bayswater awarded Jade Lewis & Friends a lease agreement on an office property from where the organisation is now run.

Testimonies:

View video testimonies of women ex-prisoners whom have undertaken our mentoring program:
<http://vimeo.com/65150650>

Websites:

For more information on Jade Lewis & Friends prison programs visit yellowribbonproject.org.au
For more information on Jade Lewis visit jadelewis.com

Tax status:

Jade Lewis & Friend Inc. is registered as a deductible gift recipient and is also registered with the WA Charitable Collections Commission.

Incorporated:

ABN 48196715113

Financial statements:

See Appendix 1.





The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program is part of the Yellow Ribbon Project for Second Chances which is run by Jade Lewis and Friends Inc who received funding in 2013 from The Local Government and Communities to deliver and evaluate a female mentoring program in Bandy up Women's Prison and once the women were released from prison. Based on a similar model from the United Kingdom (www.caringforexoffenders.org.au), The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program aims to keep female offenders out of prison and assist them to create a new life.

The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program is a female mentoring program, which begins while the woman is in prison and up to 12 months after her release. This mentor program recruits; screens and train female, volunteer mentors from the community and places them in a team of mentors assigned to help the female offender on her release from prison. In some situations mentors are paid.

The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program is an intensive and structured program providing up to 5 weekly contacts with the mentee using a team style mentoring approach. Team mentoring means more than one mentor per mentee. Mentoring provides a beneficial, purposeful relationship where the mentor provides support to the female offender to help them to make positive changes in their life. This frequent and consistent mentoring aims to build a strong connection between the mentor and mentee and provides the much needed accountability and support to female offender on her release.

The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program aims to reduce offending, assist in the resettlement process and improve offenders' socialization and engagement with their communities. Over time the frequency of the mentoring becomes less, as the woman gets stronger in her resettlement and established in her community and once she has other positive relationships in her life outside the mentoring group. This mentoring can last up to 12 months after her release.

The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program is currently in it's second year of delivery and evaluation and the results are providing strong evidence around reducing the rates of recidivism among female offenders in this program.

The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program is being evaluated by Professor Guy Hall and the aim is to investigate the effectiveness of the mentoring program in reducing recidivism, improving overall wellbeing and increasing resilience in the prisoners who participated in the program. The evaluation is also investigating the processes and program structure that is in place. The evaluation is using mixed methods to evaluate The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release Mentoring Program including included ex-prisoner surveys, mentor reports and surveys, and semi-structured interviews with prison staff, The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release mentors and facilitators.

The findings of this program, so far indicate that, **The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release Mentoring Program** has had a positive impact upon female offenders including;

- feeling more confident to make good choices
- positive feelings about life after prison
- confidence to talk with others,
- increased self-worth,
- learning about themselves,
- building new friendships
- learning new social skills,
- relationship building abilities
- forming new friendships
- * improved access to other support services
- * to get to and from appointments

The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release Mentoring Program has had feedback that most participants enjoyed the mentoring and the families who engaged in the mentoring process also reported a strong sense of support and relationship restoration with the female ex offender. Key contributing factors to the successful delivery of





The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release Mentoring Program in the prison includes 1 well-trained staff to deliver the mentoring program 2. Program structure, accessibility, style and flexibility, 3 facilitation of interactions, connections, group connectedness and trust, 4. support by prison staff and 5. consistency and stability.

Key contributing factors to the successful delivery of **The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release Mentoring Program** in the community includes

1. Well-trained mentors 2. Great community linkages 3. Volunteer mentors who go above and beyond to help the female offender, 4. Consistency and stability 5. It is being evaluated and closely monitored

The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release Mentoring Program recruits, security checks and trains volunteers as mentors from the community. They are women of all ages and various backgrounds. We closely monitor their work and supervise their mentoring and ask the mentors to report each time they meet with their mentee.

Our potential clients/mentees, who can self-refer when in prison, have a desire to want to change their negative behavior that has dominated their life and who recognize that it is going to take both a holistic and community based approach. Since the Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program is voluntary, it mostly attracts those who are ready to change and those who want accountability in the community.

Value for Money

Currently, it costs the Western Australian government, at least \$60,000 a year, to supervise and help rehabilitate women in prison (<http://www.outcare.com.au/philosophies.html>). Having a reduced rate of a women incarcerated, lessens the burden on the justice system and on the economy. The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program costs approximately \$200 000 a year to run to care for (up to) 25 women on their release and train (up to) 50 mentors.

Prison Costs

25 women x \$60 000 = \$1.5million

Mentoring Cost

\$200 000

Saving of

\$1.3 million dollars

Accordingly, thorough economic evaluation has shown that preventing just 1 career criminal can potentially save society over \$2million. (http://prevention.psu.edu/pubs/docs/PCCD_Report2.pdf)

Jade Lewis & Friends Inc. currently provides support and strategies to female prisoners. There have been many benefits including community safety, government cost savings, positive impact on local communities and a change of public opinion. The Step OUT Pre and Post Release Mentoring Program is not duplicating an existing government or non-government service. This program is providing an opportunity for Jade Lewis and Friends Inc to deliver a mentoring service, which begins while the female is in prison and up to 12months on her release to produce improved social outcomes.

The cost to mentor, support, train and be part of helping to rehabilitate women in prison and upon their release through the Step OUT program, is much lower compared to current government outlay.

Much of the program will be delivered through in-kind and volunteer support, so the grant monies can be directed towards other essential aspects of the program.



The Step OUT program will provide long term, sustainable benefits for the community. It will see positive mental, social and emotional health and anticipated a reduced use of drugs, instances of crime, violence and addiction. The State Government will reduce its costs associated with female imprisonment, recidivism and rehabilitation.

Building a strong, core team of trained mentors will see the Step OUT program lead the way with mentoring women prisoners into a successful transition and contribution in the community.

Sustainability

OUTCOMES PUBLICISED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release Mentoring Program for Women s a pilot program and the best practice elements will be publicized to Department of Corrective Services for their review and consideration of an ongoing program like this.

The Step OUT Pre and Post Prison Release Mentoring Program for Women will provide a one year and two year evaluation report, which will be conducted by an independent evaluator to determine the successes and challenges of this program.

It is anticipated that the learnings of the program can be applied to;

- internal prison programs and activities
- internal prison counselors
- male prisons
- youth at risk programs
- government employment agencies
- government prison support services (transport, meals etc)
- not for profit community agencies in the areas of drug and alcohol rehabilitation, women's refuges, youth detention centres

It is also anticipated that the program is transferable to other Western Australian (/Australian) prisons and youth detention centres. The training for mentors could also be transferable to other statewide programs that deliver to at risk youth and adults at risk of going to prison.

Ultimately this new project will be designed to reduce the rate of women and girls recidivism by providing positive role models who are available to encourage, gently challenge and help direct the woman/girl while they are in prison and up to 12 months after they are released.

A full copy of the successful application to the Local Government and Communities is attached



*** Before (her arrest photo) After On her wedding day**



