



SHINE for Kids®

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MEDIA RELEASE

15 May 2016

## SHINE FOR KIDS COMMENDS ANTI-RECIDIVISM PROGRAM IN WALES

An Australian NGO has commended a ground-breaking program in a Welsh prison that seeks to reduce re-offending by strengthening emotional connections between inmates and their families.

In the Family Interventions Unit at HMP Parc, Bridgend, Wales, inmate fathers are encouraged to acknowledge the effects of their crimes on their families.

“A few months ago I visited this prison and saw first-hand how it has operated over the last five years,” the Chief Executive Officer of SHINE for Kids, Gloria Larman, said today.

“It was so encouraging to see prisons place importance on building positive relationships between children and their imprisoned dads. This is rare within the harsh environment of a gaol.

“It was an inspirational experience that demonstrates how prisons can work differently to achieve great outcomes for the prisoners, their children, their family and society,” Ms Larman added.

SHINE for Kids is a non-profit organisation working with young Australians affected by family members in the criminal justice system. It operates ‘Belonging to Family’, a program along similar lines in Australia for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates. It engages inmates in group therapy with their children, their partner or children’s carer, extended family and community Elders.

“The wonderful, caring Elders contribute their time on a volunteer basis,” Ms Larman said.

‘Belonging to Family’ originated at the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre in Kempsey before its funding was cut by the Federal Government in 2014. It currently runs at Townsville CC in Queensland.

SHINE for Kids Co-operative Ltd ABN 60 662 072 775

Helping children with a parent in the criminal justice system and their families throughout New South Wales, ACT, Victoria and Queensland  
Head office PO Box 67, Ermington NSW 1700 • tel 02 9714 3000 • fax 02 9714 3030 • [inquiries@shineforkids.org.au](mailto:inquiries@shineforkids.org.au)

[www.shineforkids.org.au](http://www.shineforkids.org.au)

## ABOUT SHINE FOR KIDS

For over three decades **SHINE for Kids**, supported by governments and other benefactors and stakeholders, has worked with and for young Australians affected by family member involvement in the criminal justice system.

In NSW, **SHINE for Kids** centres are located at Silverwater, Parklea, Windsor, Bathurst, Goulburn, Cessnock, Wellington, Junee, Nowra and Kempsey, with programs also run for inmates at Long Bay, Frank Baxter JJC in Kariong and Acmena JJC in Grafton.

In Victoria, there is an office at Footscray and programs operating at Barwon Prison, Metropolitan Remand Centre and Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. In ACT programs operate at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and Bimberi JJC. In Queensland programs are currently run in Townsville CC.

## MORE INFORMATION

SHINE for Kids

<http://www.shineforkids.org.au>

'Wales Online' article on the Family Interventions Unit at HMP Parc:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/inside-wales-biggest-prison-unprecedented-11147052>

'BBC Online' article on the Family Interventions Unit at HMP Parc:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-36502419>

## CONTACT

**For media inquiries, please contact Gloria Larman, CEO SHINE for Kids**

phone [02 9714 3000](tel:0297143000)

fax 02 9714 3030

email [ceo@shineforkids.org.au](mailto:ceo@shineforkids.org.au)

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