



SHINE for Kids®

support - hope - inspire - nurture - empower

MEDIA RELEASE

26 July 2016

SHINE FOR KIDS COMMENDS RAPID FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

An Australian NGO has commended the Federal Government for its rapid response to child abuse in the Northern Territory juvenile justice system.

“The footage of abuse of young people at the hands of staff in the old Don Dale youth detention facility, shown on *Four Corners* last night, was absolutely shocking,” the Chief Executive Officer of SHINE for Kids, Gloria Larman, said today.

“We commend the Australian Government for the announcement of a Royal Commission into this issue,” Ms Larman added. “We see first-hand how the hopes and dreams of young detainees help them envisage a future away from the justice system. Damaging traumatic violence in detention should be investigated as a matter of urgency.”

SHINE for Kids is a not-for-profit working with young Australians affected by family members in the criminal justice system. The organisation’s ‘Stand As One’ program addresses the lack of support challenging young detainees as they try to transition from juvenile justice back into the community and build a future.

“‘Stand As One’ assigns the young person a volunteer mentor who assists with finding accommodation and employment – as well as just being an understanding and supportive presence as the young person faces the wider world after detention,” Ms Larman said.

The program is currently run by SHINE for Kids at Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre in Kariong NSW and also Bimberi Youth Justice Centre in Mitchell, ACT.

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
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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>

'Stand As One' mentoring program

<http://shineforkids.org.au/stand-as-one/>

ABC *Four Corners* footage

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-25/four-corners-evidence-of-kids-tear-gas-in-don-dale-prison/7656128>

CONTACT

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