



# SHINE for Kids

2007

## ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 25 years  
supporting children and families of prisoners

## **SHINE for Kids Cooperative Ltd**

### **Vision**

For children of parents in the criminal justice system to participate fully in family, cultural and community life.

### **Mission**

SHINE for Kids works in partnership with children and young people with a parent in the criminal justice system to overcome social and educational barriers and realise their individual potential.

The 2006 – 2007 Annual Report reflect the activities of SHINE for Kids Cooperative Limited for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30 June 2007.

Thank you to Helen Wiseman, Arthur Begetis and all staff for their reports.

Special acknowledge to Jeni Monks for proof reading and designing the graphs and to Kylie Pike for proof reading.

All children's photographs used in this reports are American stock images used for representational purposes only. The children depicted in them are not children of prisoners.

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## 1 Chairman's Report

This time last year, I flagged another exciting year ahead – a year in which we would continue to strengthen our foundations. I did not anticipate just how exciting 2007 would be and how far we would reach. It has been an outstanding year for SHINE for Kids – a year of teamwork, achievement, and celebration.

In saying this, the unique challenges faced by our children are uppermost in our minds and drive us as an organisation to support them. We are all committed to providing proven programs which enable children of parents in the criminal justice system to participate fully in family and community life, and realise their potential.

It is the collective determination of our staff, volunteers, board, funders and stakeholders which have combined to produce such a strong year. We do not underestimate the work we have still to do, but it is also appropriate to pause, recognise and celebrate our collective achievements.

For the third year running, our volunteer program was recognised in the 2007 NAB Volunteer Awards for demonstrating best practice in management of this “workforce of unsung heroes”<sup>1</sup>. From the perspective of our kids, heroes is a good way to describe our volunteers.

Our staff are a highly professional, dedicated and enthusiastic team. They embody the spirit of SHINE for Kids, whether they are directly caring for the children and their families, or whether they are “behind the scenes” each one provides Support, Hope, and Inspiration, whilst Nurturing and Empowering these children and the organisation. On behalf of the Board, we congratulate each and every one of you for the fantastic contribution you have made this year.

Our strategy for 2007 was to grow the number of child and family centres in New South Wales. This strategy enables us to reach more affected children as well as provide a central point from which we can assess the children's needs and provide tailored services and referrals. Expanding our centres also raises awareness of SHINE for Kids amongst visiting and inmate parents, carers and the local community.

Shortly we will be opening our fourth child and family centre in Wellington and plans to open further centres at Cessnock and Parklea are well underway. On behalf of SHINE for Kids, I would like to thank Commissioner Ron Woodham and the NSW Department of Corrective Services for their generous support of our strategy.

We held a number of events during the year culminating in our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circus Dinner at Doltone House. There are ~~so~~ many people to thank. But the real thanks comes from our children and families – through your support, they were given permission to “SHINE”.

Special thanks also to our guest speakers, entertainers, hosts corporate supporters at these events – Mr Brett Lee, Mr Shane Lee, Ms Gillian Calvert, Ms Sue Peiters-Hawke, Ms Rhonda Booby, Ms Kirsty de Vallance, Ms Wendy Presland, Mr David Lee, Mr

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted from the NAB Volunteer Awards website, [www.nab.com.au/About\\_Us/0,,81408,00.html](http://www.nab.com.au/About_Us/0,,81408,00.html)

Anthony Ackroyd, Dan Druff and Tu Tu Girl, Doltone House and our four clown volunteers Danniella, Laura, Peta-Lee, Danielle, Sydney Youth Orchestra, the Enormous Horns, KPMG, Blake Dawson, Bimbadgen Estate Wines, Harvey Norman and thanks also to our many generous sponsors.

Our Patron, Ann Symonds, has continued to strongly and enthusiastically support SHINE for Kids. Her work is not always visible but both Gloria Larman and I can attest to the time she has given in guiding us, facilitating key meetings and supporting all of our events. We are honoured to have such a dedicated and generous Patron.

I would like to thank our CEO, Gloria Larman, who has given tirelessly throughout the year, often going beyond the call of duty and giving up her free time to support, me, the Board and the organisation. No-one can doubt her dedication and commitment. She is also supported by a management team who are no less dedicated and who continually impress and inspire us.

Our Board – Arthur Begetis, Kristy Chambers, Paul Freeman, Fiona Lavery, Monty Parmar and Kate Shaw – show considerable teamwork complemented by independent and insightful thinking. All are equally committed to implementing the vision and mission of SHINE for Kids. They are all volunteers and all have very busy day-jobs (including the role of new mum – congratulations to Fiona and Martin on the birth of baby William!) and yet they take their SHINE for Kids responsibilities very seriously and with good humour.

In 2008 we will continue to expand so we can reach more children as well as build on the services we are currently providing. In particular, we will increase our focus on indigenous children of parents in the criminal justice system, with specific initiatives to address the particular needs of these children and their families. It gives me great pleasure to commend Mr Norman Laing, Barrister (NSW) and Ms Kristy Chambers, Lawyer, as nominated directors at our 2007 Annual General Meeting.

I am very much looking forward to 2008 and working with everyone at SHINE for Kids to build on our achievements.

Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SHINE for Kids and here's to the next 25 years! Cheers!



**Helen Wiseman**  
**Chairman**  
17 November 2007

## 2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

SHINE for Kids is celebrating 25 years of making a difference in the lives of children and families of prisoners. 1982 – 2007 a remarkable journey, 25 years. This is an important milestone and an achievement that we should all be very proud of. In November 2006 SHINE for Kids undertook a review of the effectiveness of the programs it operates. A survey was conducted with the carers of children of prisoners. This report highlights the complex needs that face children of prisoners. This report further demonstrates that services such as SHINE for Kids can contribute positively to a child's level of happiness and belief in themselves thus contributing to a child later on in life becoming successful members of society.<sup>2</sup>

SHINE for Kids entered the final year of its 2004 – 2007 Strategic Plan. It is with pleasure that I have this opportunity to share with you all the many achievements of this past year and to report on where SHINE for Kids is heading in the future.

Over the past twelve months SHINE for Kids has been reviewing its programs, refining its management structure, and developing a way forward for the organisation.

Some major achievements have included:

- ❖ Engaging with the Business Sector to bring new skill areas into the organisation.
- ❖ Securing additional funding to expand SHINE for Kids programs.
- ❖ Completion of a new resource for carers of children of prisoners, "Putting Your Child First".
- ❖ Development and implementation of a fundraising stream into the organisation.
- ❖ The development of a joint Aboriginal Child and Family of Prisoners Action Plan with the NSW Department of Corrective Services, Aboriginal Services and Planning Unit.
- ❖ Development of a SHINE for Kids Position Paper and Framework for Expansion – A five year plan.
- ❖ The commitment from NSW Department of Corrective Services to ensure that SHINE for Kids has a presence across New South Wales in targeted areas of need. New Child and Family Centres will be opened in Wellington, Cessnock and Parklea. A further commitment to include these centres in all new correctional centres being built.
- ❖ Late 2006 and early 2007 Windsor became fully equipped with new furniture from Corrective Services Industries and some computer equipment from Department of Corrective Services. This allowed for the staff at Windsor to grow from one to five staff.
- ❖ Improvements to our IT and communication systems across SHINE for Kids have been made.

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<sup>2</sup> Survey highlights are described on page 6 of this annual report.

- ❖ Development of a Memorandum of Understanding between SHINE for Kids and NSW Department of Corrective Services, covering all issues relating to the operation of SHINE for Kids centres.
- ❖ Significant expansion of the Video Visits program to include more correctional centres.

In November 2006 I attended a wonderful day at Manly Beach with staff and 15 very excited young people, for some they were experiencing being at the beach for the very first time. KPMG had invited children from SHINE for Kids to participate in a "Learn to Surf" experience and lunch with Layne Beachley, five times world surfing champion. The young people had the most wonderful time and all fell asleep in the cars on our journey home. SHINE for Kids strives to ensure that children and young people who access our services get opportunities that they will remember for some time to come. Layne encouraged the young people to follow their dreams.

In March 2007 we welcomed visitors from China as part of the China – Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program Prisoner Reintegration Study Visit with the Chinese Ministry of Justice. We shared our experience of working as a non-government organisation assisting children and families of prisoners. There was much that was the same with some stark differences. Two of the differences was the numbers of children of prisoners was so much higher than in Australia and the concept of a village town to care for the children of prisoners.



I would like to conclude with acknowledging the support and leadership of our Patron, Ann Symonds, Helen Wiseman, Chairman of SHINE for Kids, Board members, the commitment and dedication of the staff and volunteers, and the financial and in-kind support from government and the private sector.

SHINE for Kids will continue to enhance and grow its services to ensure that we are better able to meet the needs of the children and families of prisoners. We must never lose sight of the complex needs and situations that children and families find themselves in when a family member is imprisoned. When we all work together a great deal can be achieved, we can change kids lives for the better.

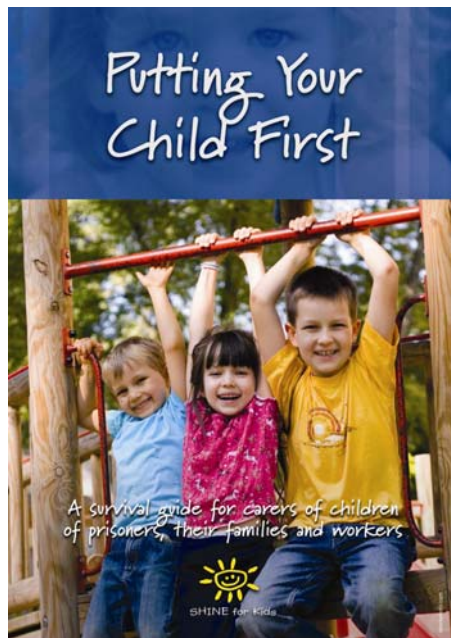


**Gloria Larman**  
Chief Executive Officer



### 3 “Putting Your Child First” new resource book.

**Funded by:** NSW Department of Corrective Services, Victims of Violent Crime Grants Program. **Written by:** Jeni Monks, Manager, Community Engagement and Partnerships **Design and layout:** Glen Watson, Cyberdog Design



This resource has been written as a survival guide for families who are struggling when a parent first goes to prison. Children and their carers are directly affected by parental imprisonment and often feel alone as they struggle to face a variety of difficulties. Children of prisoners, through no fault of their own, face unique challenges that can leave them traumatised, stigmatised and isolated. This resource offers insights to help guide and inform carers of children of prisoners' about the different issues children and young people can face on a daily basis and provides suggestions and ideas to help carers overcome these obstacles and give families the best opportunity for a positive future.

In 2007, SHINE for Kids has been supporting children and families of prisoners for 25 years across New South Wales. This booklet is a culmination of 25 years of service delivery to

children and young people with a parent or family member in prison. The resource was developed from the ideas and experiences of children and young people, carers of children of prisoners, parents in prison, volunteers and workers.

When a parent is sentenced for their crime and sent to prison it is often said that families, and especially children, are also 'doing time' along with their family member. The needs of children are forgotten by many and these children and young people are the silent and invisible victims of crime.

It seems like there is never enough information available for families with a family member in prison. SHINE for Kids' expertise is in delivering services to children and young people with a family member in prison. This resource will also provide information for the broader community to assist them to understand the experience of children and families. We hope this resource will help to reduce the stigma and isolation these children can face.



## **4 Survey of Carers of children of prisoners**

A telephone survey was conducted in November 2006 of carers of children who have been recent clients of SHINE for Kids. The purpose of the survey was to collect evidence that the organisation is achieving its aim of making a positive difference to the lives of the children it cares for. Patty Shaw was recruited to undertake this survey. Patty Shaw volunteered her research experience and knowledge to develop this survey and to lead a team of five volunteers to ensure that this survey was successfully undertaken and followed good practise methods.

The final sample size for the survey was 37 families with a total of 79 children. This sample provided a good cross-section of the demographic characteristics of clients as well as their various levels of involvement in SHINE programs and activities.

On average, each child participated in 2.1 activities. The most common were attending the Child and Family Centre at the prisons and day trips with other SHINE for Kids children. With one exception, all children enjoyed these activities.

Most children had exhibited one or more emotional or behavioural problems at the start of their parent's imprisonment. The most common problems were anger towards other people (60% of children with difficulties) and feelings of sadness and withdrawal (50%), but problem behaviour also included telling lies, lack of self-esteem, difficulty at school with poor marks and discipline, and specific indicators of low self-confidence, ie. fear, guilt, shame, worry, being bullied and feelings of being unloved.

The carers were asked whether they had noticed any improvement in the children over the time of their involvement with SHINE for Kids. The most marked improvement was in emotions associated with low self-confidence. While 70% or more of children who had felt unloved, frightened and/or worried were feeling better, the greatest advance was amongst those who initially felt ashamed and/or guilty (90% were now better or much better).

Similarly, for the most frequently reported problems (withdrawal, anger), two-thirds or more of the children now showed improved behaviour. On all emotional or behavioural problems nominated, a larger proportion of the children were seen to have improved than had made no progress or become worse.

Similarly, 70% of SHINE for Kids clients in the survey were perceived to be coping better with the situation, compared with when their parent first went to prison. A very high proportion (96%) had benefited from their time with SHINE for Kids. For 72% of children, SHINE for Kids support appears to have made a big difference to their ability to cope with their new circumstances.

### **Carers Comments**

*"If it wasn't for SHINE I don't think I'd get through it. "*

*"After spending time with her Dad she's happier, likes sending him letters. She got a bronze award last week at school for 'respect and having a go.'"*

*"She'll talk to other people, is not so clingy. She can trust other people. Going to SHINE for Kids helped to take down the barrier she built around herself."*

*"She does realise there is support. She went to high school and was criticised a lot. Now she meets others who are in the same position."*

*"He's looking forward to talking with his mentor, improving his violent behaviour through sports. He's looking forward to having an older brother/father figure to talk to."*

*"Having someone to talk to. He doesn't have many friends, feels judged at school by his peers. SHINE has been a great support as he is able to meet other kids in the same situation."*

*"The kids were never allowed to visit their Mum until SHINE assisted them with coping with seeing their mother in prison. Video-conferencing was the only way they could see her."*

*"The entertainment and family outings provided by the SHINE activities bring us together as a family."*

*"SHINE have done so much to help our family, they are absolutely wonderful!"*

## **Conclusion**

The survey of carers has collected considerable information about the children who are clients of SHINE for Kids. It has provided a snapshot of their demographic profile in terms of their age, ethnic background and family situation as well as data on the range and frequency of the emotional and behavioural problems they are experiencing when they come into SHINE for Kids care.

The survey has also achieved its aim of finding out if and how SHINE for Kids has helped them improve their lives and better cope with the new situations they face. SHINE for Kids offers these children a range of services and activities in which they all enjoy participating. The carers of the children have seen an improvement in their emotional state and in their behaviour. Through their contact with SHINE for Kids and the support its workers offer, they grow in self-confidence and lose their sense of shame and guilt.

The survey has also provided substantial evidence that SHINE for Kids is achieving its aims. Almost three-quarters of the children have learnt to cope better with their situation and involvement with SHINE for Kids has made a big difference to their lives. Overwhelmingly, SHINE for Kids has been a positive experience for these children.

**Patty Shaw**  
November 2006

## 5 Community Engagement Report

Jeni Monks - Manager, Community Engagement

### 5.1 SHINE for Kids Volunteer Program

SHINE for Kids Volunteer Program has continued to grow and is currently developing into a powerful hidden force that supports the work of SHINE for Kids and its future growth by building capacity to support more children and young people. During 2006-2007 SHINE for Kids has consolidated local connections with TAFE students, university students, individuals in the community, Corporate employee's and contributors from across the state. These diverse forms of engagement need to be recognised as an influential tool in promoting the issue of children of prisoners and the organisation of SHINE for Kids. On an ongoing basis, community involvement opportunities are promoted in print and radio media, and by word of mouth, tertiary networks and via our internet presence. Importantly, this includes our webpage [www.shineforkids.org.au](http://www.shineforkids.org.au) as a site for promotion, education and specialist knowledge in the Australian setting. In addition, information stalls at local shopping centres and community based Expo's play a vital role in promoting SHINE for Kids to the wider community.

SHINE for Kids volunteer program aims to recruit, train and manage SHINE for Kids volunteers. During this past 12 months we have welcomed 141 new volunteers across all program areas. Volunteer skill, energy and commitment reached record heights with 315 volunteers working in our three centres at Bathurst, Silverwater and Windsor and across the internet from home or the office. Our ongoing partnerships with eight community agencies throughout NSW help recruit volunteers for us, and offer our organisation essential training opportunities, coupled with advertising volunteer opportunities online. All help assist our Volunteer Program to continue to thrive and grow and support children and young people.

### 5.2 Fathers Day Fundraising Campaign

Volunteers offer time, skills and help out in all areas of SHINE for Kids. In 2006 volunteers played a vital role in collecting gold coin donations from personal and professional networks and within their workplace for our 2006 Fathers Day Fundraising Campaign. This campaign collected over \$3500 towards supporting children and young people. To help ensure this fundraising campaign was a success Corrective Services Industry (CSI) promoted our Fathers Day Appeal to all inmates in NSW providing a unique opportunity for inmates to donate to SHINE for Kids. The support CSI shows to SHINE for Kids is ongoing and invaluable.




SHINE for Kids

Keeping Mums and Dads connected with their kids  
across the state.

You can make a difference by donating a small amount.  
Enquire at your Centre as to how to donate.

For more information on SHINE for Kids call 9714 3000

Proudly supported by 



### **5.3 Children's Christmas Parties**

In 2006 our volunteers and their personal networks, along with staff from our corporate and government partners Blake Dawson, KPMG and NSW Department of Corrective Services donated all 250 children's Christmas presents. Some of these supporters also helped out at our three Children's Christmas Parties by: running activities and games and ensuring all children and young people had a great time at their party; helping sort out and wrap 250 Christmas presents; and helping out in pre-party "Santa's Workshops" - organising, planning and collecting donations to ensure the parties ran smoothly and safely on the day.



**SHINE for Kids - Volunteers**

## 5.4 Corporate Volunteers

This is two examples of employee volunteer projects which support SHINE for Kids during 2006-2007. Eight **KPMG** employees and family members held a team building / working bee and painted our Silverwater Child and Family Centre. One KPMG employee project managed the event- making sure that we had enough paint, paintbrushes and sausages. Also, five **Westpac** employees designed an Information Management System for collecting and assessing the research our online volunteers collect about services on offer to children of prisoners overseas.

**KPMG working bee**



## 5.5 Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer recognition takes many forms and during this past year SHINE for Kids Volunteer Program has been honoured with two external awards for outstanding achievement in the not for profit sector. This valuable recognition helps reward and importantly acknowledges the work our volunteers do with children and young people and plays a key role in promoting the organisation by raising our profile in the community. SHINE for Kids Volunteer Program is only able to continue to flourish with the assistance of all staff who work with our volunteers on a daily basis and with the dedication displayed by our volunteers. No volunteer program achieves success without paid staff embracing volunteer contributions and talents and SHINE for Kids staff are instrumental in helping to ensure our Volunteer Program operates successfully and, as importantly, to offer rewarding, supported and interesting volunteer roles to the community. With this in mind each year SHINE for Kids presents internal Volunteer Awards to individual volunteers to honour their commitment, dedication and sound judgement.

## 5.6 DoCS Children's Week Awards 2006

The NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) hold annual Children's Week Awards. This award program promotes the talents, skills and achievements of children and young people in NSW.



SHINE for Kids is delighted to announce that we successfully won the Community for Children Award in 2006 which recognises the efforts of volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to children in the community.

This award recognises SHINE for Kids Volunteer Program's commitment to child safe best practice whilst working with vulnerable children and young people. All our volunteers received a certificate of recognition and SHINE for Kids received a trophy and certificate. The award was presented by the Minister for Community Services and Youth, Reba Meagher at a special ceremony at Taronga Zoo on Sunday 22 October 2006.





**national winner**  
health and  
wellbeing

### **NAB 2006 National Volunteer Awards**

In 2003 SHINE for Kids Volunteer Program was delighted to have our volunteer's efforts recognised by this prestigious National Volunteer Awards program.

In 2006 we entered this award program again and we are proud to announce that this year we successfully won, not just the state award for NSW, but also the 2006 National Volunteer Award.

We were competing with 1200 other community groups. The National Volunteer Award is judged by a panel of our peers and focuses on the best practice principals integrated into the management of volunteers to ensure volunteers have a safe and rewarding experience whilst volunteering in the community. This Award was presented in December 2006 at the awards event in Sydney and secured for us invaluable media attention and prize money of \$10,000.





## 5.8 SHINE for Kids Volunteer of the Year Awards 2006

*Every year SHINE for Kids recognises all our dedicated and committed Volunteers and Board members. At our 2006 AGM the following volunteers were presented with Awards for their outstanding contribution to children and families:*

### **Bathurst**

The Deirdre Hyslop Volunteer of the Year Award 2006  
Presented to Sara Waller

### **Silverwater**

The Deirdre Hyslop Volunteer of the Year Award 2006  
Presented to Ann Arciuli

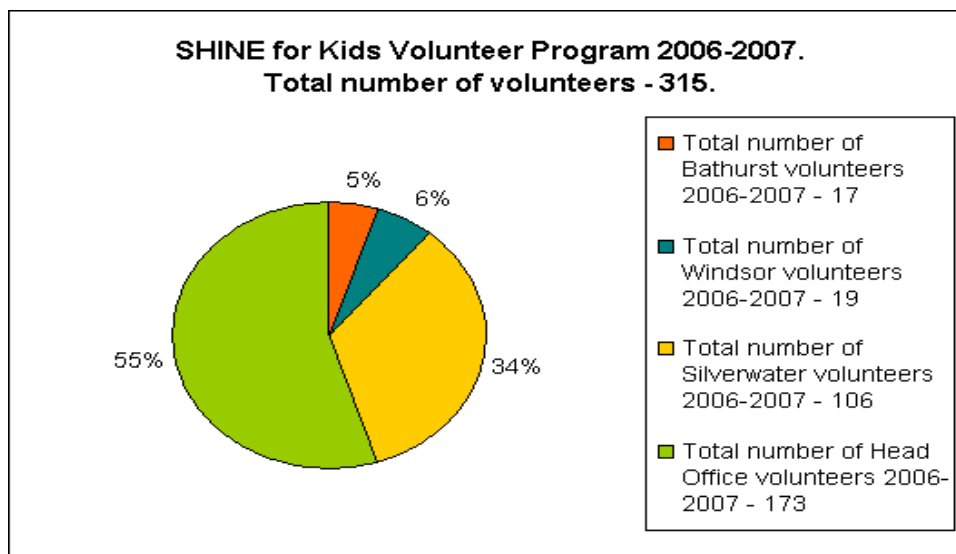
### **Windsor**

The Deirdre Hyslop Volunteer of the Year Award 2006  
Presented to Joely Stark

### **Special Recognition Volunteer Awards**

The Deirdre Hyslop 2006 Special Recognition Volunteer Award was presented to:

Alex Merrick | Katie Yealland | Amanda Fahim | Claren Cheung |  
Stephanie Shultz | Chay Chan | Diana Simmons



## 6 Fundraising Report

The SHINE for Kids Fundraising arm was established in February 2007.

The introduction of a dedicated Fundraising stream within SHINE for Kids ensures there is a dedicated arm solely responsible for income seeking opportunities to support the organisations existing and future programs and services.

A Fundraising Strategy was developed in line with the organisations existing Business and Strategic Plan (2004-2007) to encompass a diverse mix of income seeking opportunities including grants, donations, workplace giving, sponsorships and events. In addition, the plan will use a combination of marketing and media to increase awareness of the organisation.

A crucial element of Fundraising is to ensure all legal guidelines are met through the relevant regulatory bodies in relation to fundraising.

In the first five months a number of grants have been successful. The development of a database of supporters has commenced. A successful event was held in May to coincide with the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs - Families Week, with this year's theme "Investing in Time Together".

SHINE for Kids first event was a corporate breakfast held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 in the boardroom at KPMG, hosted by Sue Pieters-Hawke and featuring guest speaker Ms Gillian Calvert, the NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People."

Ms Calvert brought a wealth of knowledge and statistics about the importance of families, regardless of their circumstances, need to spend time together for the future health and well being of the child into adult life.



SHINE for Kids' Chairman Ms Helen Wiseman, Treasurer Arthur Begetis and Chief Executive Officer Gloria Larman, also presented at the breakfast outlining the importance of supporting the children of prisoners and the organisations programs.

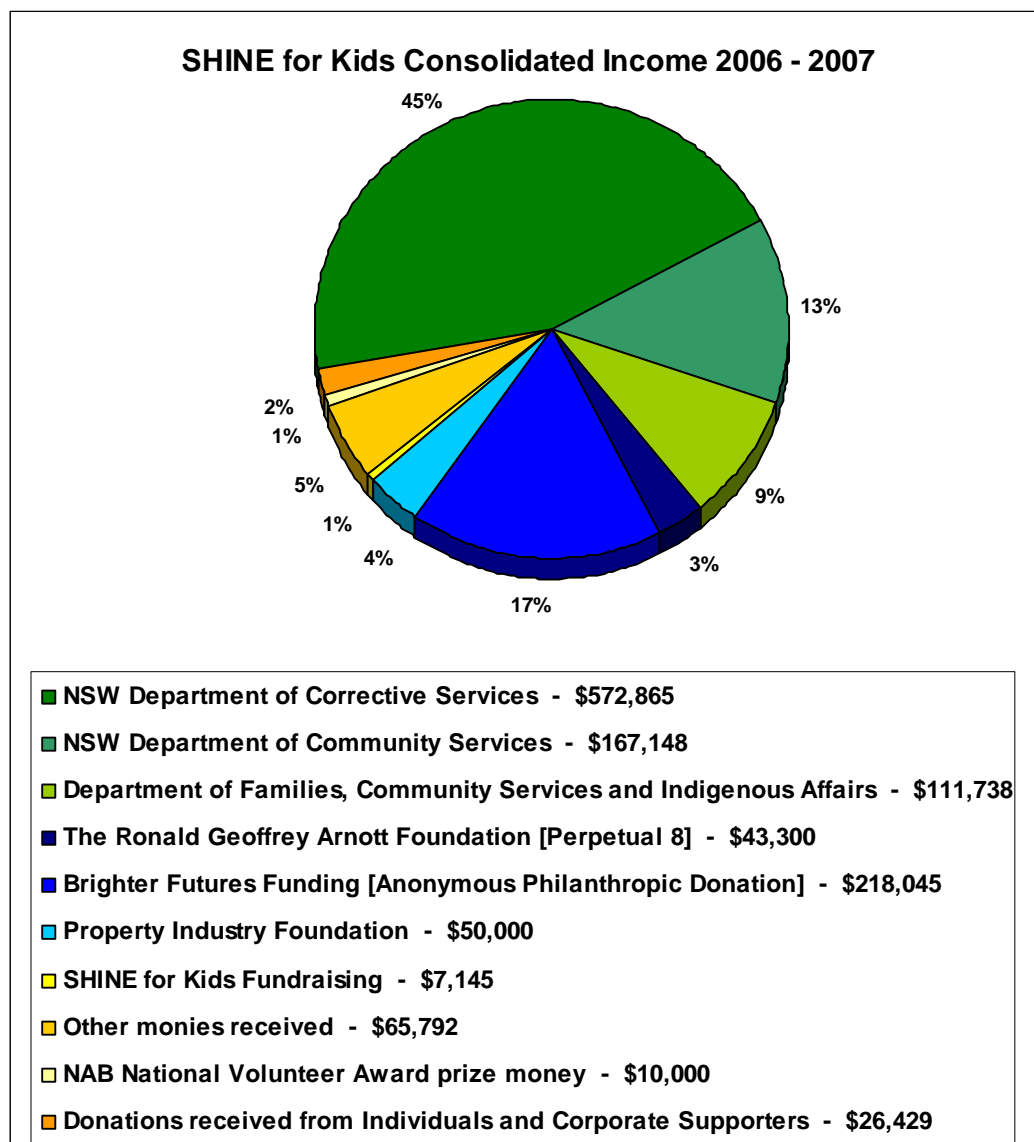
The event also featured a fundraising element in the form of a raffle through the support of Taronga Zoo, Maritime Museum, Sydney Aquarium, Australian Reptile Park, Sydney Tower + OzTrek, Universal Music, Arnott's Biscuits, Civic Video-Penrith, IMAX Australia and Ferrero Rocher.

SHINE for Kids would like to acknowledge the tremendous support of KPMG and Ms Gillian Calvert for their support of this inaugural event.

**Kylie Pike and Anabella Ward**  
Fundraising Manager

## 7 Key Partners

SHINE for Kids would like to acknowledge the following major financial and in-kind contributions that have been made to enable services to be provided to children, young people and families who are affected by the criminal justice system. SHINE for Kids could not make a difference in the lives of children affected by the criminal justice system without this support.



### **Department of Corrective Services - \$557,865**

- Contribution towards the Management & Administration of organisation
- Supported Children's Transport Service
- Children and Adolescent Groups
- Child & Family Centre (Silverwater)
- Contribution to Child & Family Centre (Bathurst)
- Child & Family Centre (Windsor)
- Child/Parent Activity Days
- Contribution towards Children's & Family Outreach Project, including Video Conferencing – Bathurst
- Premises located at Silverwater, Bathurst and Windsor
- Furniture for Windsor Centre
- Staff have provided Christmas Presents and donations of toys for the Child and Family Centres

### **Department of Corrective Services**

– Victims of Violent Crime Grants Program - \$15,000

SHINE for Kids developed and produced a survival guide for carers of children or prisoners, their families and workers "Putting Your Child First"

### **Department of Community Services - \$167,148**

- Contribution towards the Management & Administration of the organisation.
- Casework Service Sydney
- Contribution towards Child & Family Centre (Bathurst)
- Contribution towards Children's & Family Outreach Project, including Video Conferencing – Bathurst

### **Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs - \$111,738**

- Mentoring for young people
- Working with children and families to improve parenting
- Educational support for children of prisoners

### **Brighter Futures Project – (Anonymous donation) - \$218,045**

This is a significant increase from previous year and has allowed the program to grow.

- Intensive support for children and young people
- Financial assistance for children and young people; such as tutoring
- Mentoring for young people
- Group work program provided in schools

### **Property Industry Foundation - \$50,000**

Contribution towards the SHINE for Kids supported children's transport service. Allowing more children to be connected with their imprisoned parent.

## **The Ronald Geoffrey Arnott Foundation (Perpetual 8) - \$43,300**

Contribution towards the SHINE for Kids Toddler Program.

### **KPMG**

Providing both financial and in-kind support.

In-kind support has included -

- Monthly rooms and catering for Board of Management and sub-committee meetings
- Staff have contributed toys for Child and Family Centres
- Staff have become Child and Family Centres and Mentors for young people
- Staff have become involved in the Board of Management of SHINE for Kids
- Assistance with overseas employee sponsorship program
- Provided an opportunity for children of prisoners to participate in a "Learn to Surf" afternoon
- Staff organised for Christmas presents to be donated to children of prisoners
- Printing of Christmas cards for sale
- Sponsorship of first SHINE for Kids fundraising event – May breakfast

### **Blake Dawson**

- Have provided their legal expertise pro-bono to SHINE for Kids.
- Held a Social Issues Forum to raise awareness of the work of SHINE for Kids
- Staff donated Christmas presents

**Many organisations and individuals provide valuable support throughout the year. The following companies and individuals ensure that SHINE for Kids is able to continue to provide services to children and families of prisoners through donating money and in-kinds goods.**

3D Networks (Australia) Pty Ltd  
Adrian Williams  
Ann Arculi  
Annu Jindia  
Arnotts Biscuits  
Australian Reptile Park  
Avon  
Bakers Delight  
Bathurst Correctional Centre  
Beaux Bellus  
Beecroft Chiropractic  
Ben Seumahu  
Betty Wanders  
Bidvest (Wetherill Park)  
Blake Dawson Waldron  
Cathy & Thomas Bombolas  
Centrelink

Charlotte and Ethan Jones  
Chris Baker  
Civic Video  
Clover Hill  
Colleen Hamilton  
Collier Charitable Fund  
Community Sector Banking  
CSI Textiles - JMCC  
Daniela Bernardinis  
Department of Corrective Services  
Department of Corrective Services - STAFF  
Dimity Hill  
Dominos Pizza - Bathurst  
Donut King - Bathurst  
Eastgate Bondi Junction  
Erik Moren



Exodus Foundation  
Ferrero Australia  
FUJI Film  
Fuji Xerox  
G Simpson  
IMAX  
Inga Lie  
James Meehan High School  
Jim Dixon  
Joan Lambie  
Joe Karan  
John & Kay Valder  
John Morony 1  
John Morony 2  
Jones Lang Lasalle  
Joy Levins  
Kay and John Valder  
Kirsty De Vallance  
KPMG  
Leonie Williamson  
Lilyfield Childrens Bookshop  
Linda Hazife  
Lions Club of Burwood  
Lyn Justice  
M.R.R.C  
Macquarie Bank Foundation  
Margaret Kelly  
Margaret Smiley  
Mariana Mohammad  
Marilyn Robinson  
Maritime Museum  
Martin Morrow  
Miranda Montrone  
MSPC 1 Wing

MSPC Area 3  
Mulawa Correctional Centre  
Nan Passmore  
Nortel  
NSW Commission for Children and  
Young People  
Penrith Catering Supplies  
Peter Di Girolamo  
Pink Health Care  
Presbyterian Womens Association  
Prince of Wales Children Hospital  
Property Industry Foundation  
R & J Hughes  
Rohy's Maintainance  
Rotary Club of Chester Hill  
Rotary Club of Parramatta  
Royal Bayview Tennis Club  
Sally McLaren  
Sandy Sunjic  
Simon Diab and Associates  
Stephen Clarke  
Sydney Aquarium  
Sydney Olympic Park Authority  
Sydney Tower + OzTrek  
Taronga Zoo  
The Cubby House @ Kellyville  
United Way  
Universal Music  
UWS Hawkesbury- Childcare Centre  
Variety Club  
Vege-smart Direct  
Vesna Masek  
Vlasia Farmakis  
Warren & Robyn McNamara

## 8 The Team at SHINE for Kids

### 8.1 Patron

Ms Ann Symonds

### 8.2 Board of Management

|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| Chairman  | - | Helen Wiseman   |
| Treasurer | - | Arthur Begetis  |
| Secretary | - | Monty Parmar  |
| Director  | - | Katherine Shaw  |
| Director  | - | Paul Freeman  |
| Director  | - | Fiona Lavery  |
| Director  | - | Kristy Chambers   |
| Director  | - | Martin Bartlett (resigned 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2006)     |
| Director  | - | Kirsty de Vallance (resigned 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2007) |
| Director  | - | Peter Sharp (resigned 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2006)       |

### Advisors to the Board

Deirdre Hyslop



SHINE for Kids – Silverwater Office

### 8.3 Staff – as at October 2007

#### Staff - Silverwater

|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Gloria Larman    | : | Chief Executive Officer                          |
| Wendy Barnert    | : | Bookkeeper                                       |
| Jeni Monks       | : | Community Engagement Manager                     |
| Kylie Pike       | : | Fundraising Manager                              |
| Anabella Ward    | : | Fundraising Manager                              |
| Mele Tuitahi     | : | Administration Assistant                         |
| Lisa Dalton      | : | Coordinator of Group Work Programs               |
| Lisa Hawkins     | : | Coordinator of Child & Family Centres            |
| Beata Malinowsky | : | Intake & Assessment Caseworker                   |
| Kerry Hickin     | : | Transport Facilitator                            |
| Vacant           | : | Intensive Children's Caseworker                  |
| Vacant           | : | Facilitator of Silverwater Child & Family Centre |
| Mavis Rowe       | : | Casual Child Care Worker                         |
| Anna Hamilton    | : | Casual Child Care Worker                         |
| Engy Reda        | : | Casual Children's Transport Worker               |
| Melissa Buckley  | : | Casual Children's Transport Worker               |
| Stacy Allen      | : | Casual Children's Transport Worker               |
| Rita Casser      | : | Casual Children's Transport Worker               |
| Jeanette Taylor  | : | Casual Children's Transport Worker               |

#### Staff - Windsor

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| Sharon Mumford   | : | Project Worker  |
| Louise Blackburn | : | Group Worker  |
| Erin Kester      | : | Facilitator of Windsor Child & Family Centre            |
| Leeann Turley    | : | Coordinator of Mentoring Program                        |
| Tina Corr        | : | Facilitator of Child/Parent Days<br>and Toddler Program |
| Tracey McMillian | : | Administration Assistant Child/Parent Days              |
| Jane McLaren     | : | Casual Child Care Worker                                |

#### Staff - Bathurst

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Kirsten Ware  | : | Project Worker – Mentoring                    |
| Vacant        | : | Facilitator of Bathurst Child & Family Centre |
| Tanya Peachey | : | Project Worker, Breaking the Cycle Project    |
| Vacant        | : | Children's Support Worker                     |
| Debbie Sarkis | : | Casual Child Care Worker                      |
| Yasmin Wilson | : | Casual Children's Transport Worker            |
| Joel Palmer   | : | Casual Children's Transport Worker            |

#### Staff - Newcastle

|            |   |                                    |
|------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Helen Gadd | : | Casual Children's Transport Worker |
|------------|---|------------------------------------|

#### Staff - Wellington

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Maree Thomas | : | Facilitator of Wellington Child & Family Centre |
| Alison Grant | : | Casual Child Care Worker                        |



## 8.4 Volunteers

Adele Moran  
Adrian Williams  
Alison Leggott  
Alison Shoebridge  
Amanda Fahim  
Angus Humphrey  
Anne Arculi  
Anne Parnell  
Ann-Maree Campbell  
Ashley Hayley  
Athena Delaguiado  
Barry Cregan  
Ben & Michael Levey  
Ben Seumahu  
Bernice Griffin  
Boris Ballango  
Carly Lewis  
Carmen Lilian Moreta  
Cassandra McIver  
Catherine Silsbury  
Catherine Warburton  
Cecilia Cox  
Charmaine Smith  
Chay Chan  
Chelsea Bennetts  
Cheryl Roach  
Chiara Sbrizzi  
Christine Baker  
Christine Cini  
Christine Kemp  
Claire Bailey  
Claire Collins  
Clare Hewitt  
Claren Cheung  
Claudia Disco  
Clency Bechard  
Cordell D'Abreu  
Dahnia Mithran  
Daniel Rojas  
Danielle Hay  
Danijela Cindric  
Darren Fitzharris  
David Pik  
Deb Gavin  
Debbi Hind  
Deborah Boatwain  
Deirdre Hyslop  
Di Mason  
Diana Simmons  
Dianne Beckingham  
Derek Townsend  
Dimpal Devalia  
Dinushi Hewamana  
Domini Stuart

Donna Marie Mullans  
Eleanor Redhead  
Emma Greig  
Engy Reda  
Eril Moren  
Erin Marie Beadman  
Eva Mazzucciti  
Eve Chen  
Fergal Collins  
Florence Holroyd  
Frank Colzato  
Franklyn Osei  
Geetha Sivapirabu  
Gemma Margaret McKay  
Hayley Mackensie  
Helen Wilson  
Helena Markovizev  
Ian Johnson  
Iman Survery  
James Reynolds Jones  
Jan McEwen  
Jane Appin  
Janet Irmier  
Janice Christie  
Jaya Muthunesan  
Jeanette Covell  
Jenna Clark  
Jennifer Jane Macgonigal  
Jennifer Kirby  
Jennifer Mary Curran  
Jennifer Robertson  
Jesna Masek  
Jessica Cancian  
Jessica Jean Stuart  
Jodi Death  
Joel Dennis  
Joel Palmer  
Joely Stark  
Jordan Emery  
Judith Ledger  
Julia Friedewald  
Julie Howard Gregory  
Justine Carter  
Karen Banfield  
Karl Yalda  
Kate Howarth  
Kathleen Lamoureux  
Kathryn McKenzie  
Kathryn Ford  
Katie Yealand  
Katya Baker  
Kayla Hudson  
Kate Howarth  
Kathleen Lamoureux

Kathryn McKenzie  
Kathryn Ford  
Katie Yealand  
Katya Baker  
Kayla Hudson  
Kerry Woods  
Kira Sweet  
Kirsty de Vallance  
Laura Stewart  
Libby McGiver  
Lee McKenzie  
Linda Bowser  
Linda Cookson  
Linda D'Abreu  
Lisa Barrett  
Lisa Wade  
Louise Margaret Farrar  
Lucas Carrigan  
Lyndall Bayode  
Lynette Hutchens  
Mai Anh Lu  
Margaret Emerton  
Margaret Kelly  
Marian Lyn Casey  
Mariana Mohammad  
Marjory Thompson  
Mary Diana Parker  
Mary Parker  
Mathew John Watson  
Mei Lai  
Mele Makasini  
Mele Sialema  
Melissa Buckley  
Meri Carovska  
Michelle Banasiak  
Muriel Schwebel  
Nathaniel Sundstrom  
Nicholas Falla  
Nicola Vartuli  
Nicole Inch  
Nicole Urban  
Nikita Maree Mulder  
Olena Golubyeva  
Oliver Chapman  
Patricia Annette Clark  
Patricia Cook  
Paula Tuffy  
Peggy Shaw  
Polly Hong  
Polly McCarthy  
Rachel Lockley  
Rebecca Barry  
Rebecca Jones  
Rebecca Matanle

Rebekah Rubensohn  
Renee Covington  
Richard Auimatagi  
Rochelle Gaye Hinton  
Romina Andrea Robert  
Ronald Samuel Bloom  
Rosemary Proust  
Rowena Dwyer  
Ruth Dibble  
Sally Howard  
Sandra Doueihy  
Sandy Sunjic  
Sara Waller  
Sarah D'Arcy  
Sarah Jane Keene  
Sarah Luff  
Sarah Moritz  
Sarah Vickers  
Scott Cass-Dunbar  
Shantelle Renee Provost  
Sharon Yates  
Shauna Parkes  
Shelja Audh  
Shirley Colzato  
Sian Fergie  
Silvia Meli  
Sivapirabu Sathasivam  
Slavica Bojic  
Smita Yagnik  
Stephanie Camus  
Stephanie Patten  
Stephen Clarke  
Stephen Hurley-Smith  
Stephen Kleboe  
Stephen Yee  
Suzanne O'Donnell  
Sylvia Lokman NG  
Tamara Dytor  
Tracy Sharon McMillan  
Ursula Adams  
Veronica Pepe  
Veronica Pout  
Veronica Sepulveda  
Vesna Melik  
Vicki Hay  
Vivian Rene Kirolos  
Wenni Parmono  
Werner Gysemans  
Wilfred Leong  
Yasmin Olga Wilson

### **Event Supporters**

Ann Symonds  
Brett Lee  
Clare Payne  
Claudia Santos  
Danniella Larman-Yalda  
Danielle Auimatagi  
David Lee  
Krystal Gabriel  
Laura Deabill  
Nelson da Silva  
Peta-Lee Mumford  
Rhonda Booby  
Ruth Deabill  
Shane Lee  
Sue Pieters-Hawke  
Wendy Presland  
David Scheerhoorn  
Gillian Calvert  
Jeffery Gabriel  
Joel Dennis  
Kim Dixon  
Kirsty de Vallance  
Kristin Turley

### **Students from Ravenswood School for Girls**

Anna McPherson  
Elizabeth Newham  
Kate Crittenden  
Meghan Bingham  
Zoe Knowles  
Rosalind Loo

### **Student Placements**

Abby Talbot  
Adam Galbraith  
Carolina Valdes  
Jarrah Harburn  
Katayana Baker  
Katheryn Dawson  
Katrina Blackman  
Lilly Gloria Gilfoyle  
Rima Kassem  
Sarah Jane Keene  
Sian Ferge  
Tamzin Stewart  
Tracy Sharon McMillan  
Zanita Figiel

**SHINE for Kids staff who volunteered throughout the year.**

## **9 SHINE for Kids Projects**

### **9.1 Child and Family Centres**

In August 2005 SHINE for Kids opened our third Child and Family Centre at John Morony Complex at Windsor. The other two centres are located opposite to the Bathurst Correctional Centre and on the grounds of the Silverwater Correctional Complex. These centres offer a variety of programs seven days a week including pre-booked child minding, weekend activity and play sessions, a drop-in service for families visiting their loved one in prison and acts as an important mechanism for raising awareness of, and promoting all the services SHINE for Kids offer children and young people.

#### **Why Child & Family Centres are needed?**

Visiting mum or dad in prison can be a daunting experience for a child. When looking at the world from the eyes of a child many visit areas are not child friendly nor conducive to relaxed stress free visits with mum or dad. Our Centre's are designed to break up the visit for the child and give kids some time out to "just be kids" and play with other kids in the same situation at the centre. Children and young people are able to visit with mum or dad either side of these play sessions, but instead of getting bored or restless the visit experience is enjoyable.

When children and young people are visiting SHINE for Kids Child & Family Centres parents and carers remain in the visit area and are able to talk about things their children should not listen to. SHINE for Kids reputation ensures parents feel secure in the knowledge that their children are safe whilst in our centres.

SHINE for Kids understand parents need time to discuss adult issues, their relationship and their children without worrying that their children can overhear.

On weekends our Centres offer play, educational and creative activities to children and young people of all ages in a supportive environment. SHINE for Kids has the expertise and understands the needs of children of prisoners. Children and young people benefit from being surrounded by adults, who understand the issues they face, and meeting and playing with other children and young people in a similar situation. Unlike most places at our centre there is no need for secrets and no need to avoid talking about their mum or dad. This peer support helps reduce the sense of isolation and feeling of being alone that many children and young people experience.

#### **Volunteer Involvement**

SHINE for Kids staff are assisted week after week by a dedicated team of volunteers. The Child & Family Centres only operate when one paid child care worker and at least one volunteer is present. We rely on our team of volunteers to keep our doors open. We thank our volunteers for their time, energy, ideas, play skills and generosity of spirit.

## **Local Supporters and Funding**

Corrective Service Industries supplies all our Child and Family Centres with snacks and drinks for weekend sessions. In addition, local businesses donate food for our Bathurst and Windsor Child and Family Centres on an ongoing basis.

The three Child and Family Centre premises are provided by NSW Department of Corrective Services. Operating costs are met by NSW Department of Corrective Services and NSW Department of Community Services.

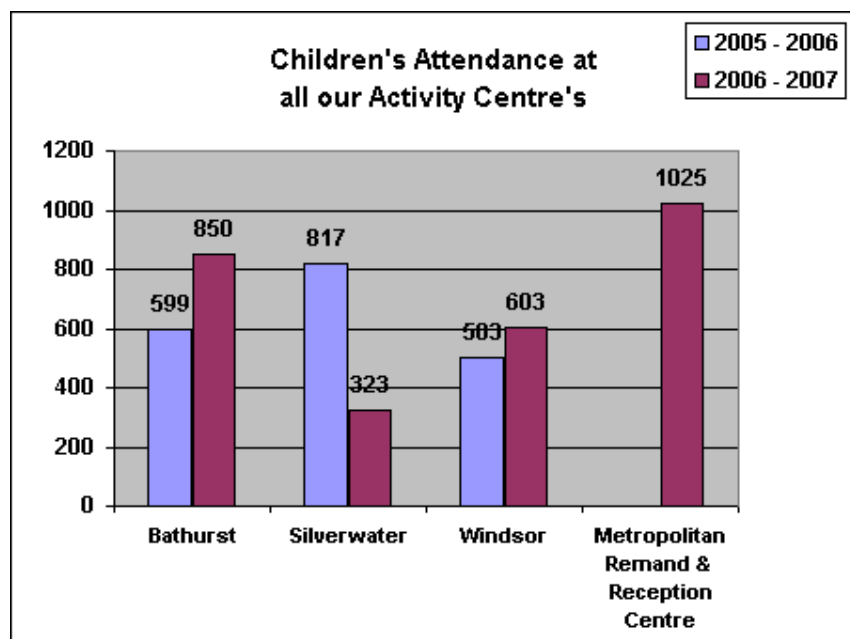
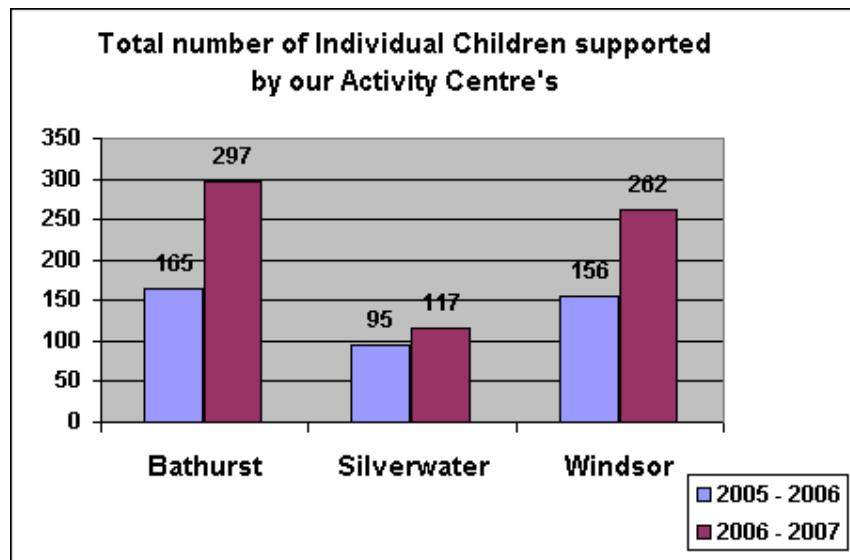
## **Annual Children's Christmas Parties**

Our Child and Family Centres form the foundation of SHINE for Kids Annual Children's Christmas Parties. Our Christmas Parties grow every year and make use of the games, toys and play equipment from our Child and Family Centres. Our three Child and Family Centre Coordinators lead the way in making our Children's Christmas Parties a success year after year. All staff and many volunteers are involved on the day keeping the party running smoothly. Windsor Child and Family Centre held their first Children's Christmas Party with over 60 children lined for a present from Santa. A fantastic turn out when you consider the Centre had only been open for just over four months. Our Christmas Parties are a great opportunity for carers to share experiences and make friends and another opportunity for kids to meet other kids: some they have seen during a prison visit, others they know from the past weekend Child and Family Centre adventures, and still others they will meet for the first time.

## **National Families Week**

Our Children Child and Family Centre's take the opportunity each year during National Families Week to promote their Child and Family Centre and all of SHINE for Kids Early Intervention services to the families visiting a loved one in prison. This is a partnership between Centrelink, local Correctional Centres, volunteers and SHINE for Kids. SHINE for Kids provide a free BBQ as a great opportunity to meet families, offer support and share information with families in need.

## Number of Children attending all three SHINE for Kids Child and Family Centres



### 9.1.1 Child and Family Centre Silverwater

#### Cath Gissane Centre

The Cath Gissane Child and Family Centre provide the children who visit the Silverwater Correctional Complex with a place to attend while their carer is visiting a loved one on weekends. This also provides children an opportunity to meet and interact with children who are in a similar situation. While the children are having fun at our centre, their carers are able to enjoy some childfree time, and allow the opportunity for families to discuss any concerns they may have in regards to their child/ren and to have an opportunity to build on their own relationship. The Child and Family Centre operates on Saturday and Sunday from 12:30pm - 2:30pm.



SHINE for Kids childcare staff and volunteer's collect children from the visits section of;

- Silverwater
- F Block (works release)
- Dawn Deloas (Special protection)

| <b>Silverwater Child &amp; Family Centre</b>          | <b>2006 - 2007</b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of times children attended the centre          | 323                |
| Number of individual children who attended the centre | 117                |
| Number of children who identified as CALD             | 107                |
| Number of children who identified as ATSI             | 10                 |
| No of families who attended the centre                | 39                 |

The Silverwater Child & Family Centre also provides a venue for families to drop in and have a cup of coffee, have a chat and receive support. Families regularly drop in before or after visiting one of the correctional centres.

## Visits Program

A new program commenced for children inside the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC). During the weekend visits SHINE for Kids have an activity table set up in the visit area. Dads are able to join in and play with their children at the craft table, helping to maintain their bond despite the barriers.

| <b>Visits Program – Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre</b> | <b>2006 - 2007</b> |
|--|--------------------|
| Number of children who attended visits program                   | 1025               |
| Number of Children who were ATSI <sup>3</sup>                    | 61                 |
| Number of Children who were CALD <sup>4</sup>                    | 575                |

Staff involved in the delivery of the program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 includes:

Sharon Mumford  
Erin Kester

Mavis Rowe

Anna Hamilton

Krista Forsstrom

***Current Facilitator of Centre – position vacant.***

## 9.1.2 Child and Family Centre Bathurst

### Winangaay Centre

This year has been a very busy year in the centre. The children who have attended have enjoyed a number of special themes ranging from pets, gardens, Australia, community people, jungles and food. Special events have been celebrated at the Centre such as; Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Christmas, Easter, Australia Day and Melbourne Cup Day with specific activities designed for each of these days.

SHINE for Kids childcare staff and volunteer's collect children from the visits section of Bathurst Main and Bathurst X Wing correctional centres.

| <b>Bathurst Child &amp; Family Centre</b>             | <b>2006 - 2007</b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of times children attended the centre          | 850                |
| Number of individual children who attended the centre | 297                |
| Number of children who identified as CALD             | 8                  |
| Number of children who identified as ATSI             | 470                |

<sup>3</sup> Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander

<sup>4</sup> Culturally and Linguistly Diverse





The Bathurst Child & Family Centre also provides a venue for families to drop in and have a cup of coffee, have a chat and receive support. Families regularly drop in before or after visiting one of the correctional centres.

The centre was repainted this year inside and outside the fence has been painted a bright yellow it is now impossible to miss as you drive along the highway.

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 includes:

Kirsten Ware  
Maree Thomas

Tanya Peachey

Debbie Sarkis

Angie Trevor-Jones

***Current Facilitator of Centre - vacant***

### **9.1.3 Child and Family Centre Windsor**

The Windsor Child and Family Centre has a steady flow of children and their families utilising the service every weekend. Many have come to rely upon the services each weekend while visiting a family member or friend on the John Morony Complex.

We continue to SHINE for families in an area which is remote to visit with limited public amenities and public transport. The centre is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday and some public holidays. On Saturday and Sunday we provide two Child Activity Sessions each day and one Drop-in session for families each day.

The centre provides occasional care in the form of child play sessions. We aim to provide respite to the children from the correctional centre environment especially in some children's cases where they spend five days at school then Saturday and Sunday visiting dad in prison. The expectation to keep still and quiet can be an enormous strain on everyone in visits. Having the children attend an activity session gives them the opportunity to behave like children and enjoy the pleasures of being in a relatively carefree environment.

This is also an opportunity for parents and carers to discuss important issues that they would prefer not to talk about in front of the children but just as importantly a time for respite for parents and for the carers, this sometimes is the only time out they receive from the sole responsibility of their children.



The play sessions are a non structured time for the kids to play in a safe and caring place where no pretence or secrets have to be worried about. We provide crafts indoor and outdoor play as well as a snack for the children. The custard pots are especially popular as they drink them with a straw like a thick shake and “dad” gets the very same one as them in their daily meals, so it has become an important link to their parent, eating the same food.

The centres Drop-in programme, has been utilised very well by the John Morony 1, John Morony 2 and Dillwynia Correctional Centre Visitors. We provide snacks, drinks, use of nappy change area and kitchen facilities. We encourage families to come and rest before going home or while waiting for the visits to open for the afternoon sessions. Many have asked for assistance from bus time table information to SHINE for Kids activities to accommodation in the local area.

A lot of our success here at Windsor is due to the invaluable stability and dedication of the volunteers who volunteer each weekend.



All visitors are encouraged to sign in our Drop-in book and many have made comments such as; This place is Great!, Good place thanks for Cuppa!, Eggcelent place (at Easter time), good idea having drop in, great enjoyed, Good job love! Nice place and lots and lots of “Great” as a comment.

The kitchens at John Morony are helpful and generous every weekend with donation of custard and milk each weekend.

Grounds maintenance continues to support and maintain the Child and Family Centre, with regular lawn mowing, and small maintenance items with Resolve FM fixing the larger maintenance items.

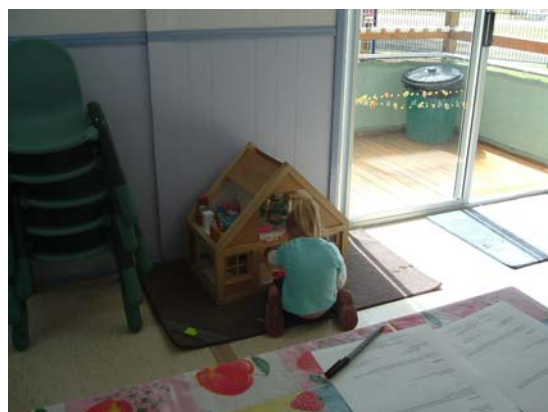
| <b>Windsor Child &amp; Family Centre</b>              | <b>2006 - 2007</b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of times children attended the centre          | 603                |
| Number of individual children who attended the centre | 262                |
| Number of children who identified as CALD             | 134                |
| Number of children who identified as ATSI             | 62                 |
| Number of times adults dropped in for support         | 417                |
| Number of times children dropped in with their carer  | 428                |

The centre has gone from strength to strength in its first year. It has quickly built a strong foundation for families via the Drop in service, which has been utilised well by visitors. The Centre also provides snacks, drinks, use of nappy change area and kitchen facilities, encouraging families to come and rest before going home or while waiting for the visits to open for the afternoon. An unofficial support group has emerged for regularly visiting mothers and their children.

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 includes:

Lisa Hawkins                      Jane McLaren  
Sharon Mumford

***Current Facilitator of Centre is Erin Kester.***



## **9.2 Children's Supported Transport Project**

SHINE for Kids Supported Children's Transport Service aims to improve the emotional, psychological and physical well-being of children by ensuring that children are able to spend quality time with their Mum or Dad. During 2005-2006 we transported 144 children to visit their parent in prison on 206 occasions. The Department of Community Services recognises SHINE for Kids expertise and contracts us to transport children from their foster carer to visit mums and dads in prison.

Maintaining a positive relationship between child and parent is extremely important to a child's self esteem, self-identity, attachment style, and 'normal' child development stages. When a child experiences separation from their parent the result is feelings of loss, grief, anxiety, depression, abandonment. The child's experiences are compounded by stigma and discrimination in the community, an added burden on each child and their families.

### **Children and Young People Need Access to Mum and Dad**

All at once, children may have lost their Mum, Dad, Brother and Sister at the same time. Often split up and sent to different homes, with new schools and forced to make new friends. Understandably, the visits SHINE for Kids facilitates are cherished by children and young people because they are not only able to have quality time with Mum or Dad, but with their siblings as well.

Almost without exception, children mourn the loss of their parent. They can display behaviour reactions from anxiety to aggression and although a visit to a prison may be daunting at first, children find reassurance in bonding with their parents, and when they discover that they are not alone and see other children visiting their parents.

### **The Visit**

Upon arriving at the Correctional Centre, the worker reassures the children, answers their questions, and helps them through the admittance process. The first few visits with Mum or Dad at a prison can be daunting and strange, but seeing their Mum or Dad overrides any initial disquiet children may experience. During the visit itself, the worker stays within “earshot” of the conversation, in an unobtrusive manner so that the family feels free to interact. Despite the strange environment and circumstances of the visit area, over time children feel at ease and comfortable visiting their Mum or Dad. Children benefit emotionally when they are able to see their Mum or Dad.



The visits for children are organised by a Transport Facilitator who ensures that the visits are well-planned and monitored. The planning includes: liaising with child, family and inmate, confirming date and times, cars are booked, workers and volunteers are booked in and timetabled to connect kids to their mum or dad. There is considerable “red tape” when booking a visit for a child to see Mum or Dad in a Correctional Centre.

SHINE for Kids Children’s Transport Workers assume responsibility for the children from the time they collect the children until they return the children safely home again after the prison visit with mum or dad. The long-term nature of the work ensures that the children have an on-going, intensive support person and mentor, skilled at understanding their unique situation and the issues these children face. Through casual conversation whilst driving, the Children’s Transport Worker assesses each child’s emotional state and attitude to ensure that contact between parent and child is in the child’s best interest. Over time, trust builds between the Worker and the child, the parent in prison, the carer (be it: Mum, Dad, Grandpa, Aunty, Family Friend or Foster Carer).

Children were transported to many correctional centres around New South Wales to visit their Mum or their Dad in the last year.

Transporting children to visit their parent in prison involves travelling many kilometres as distances between the child’s house and the correctional centre can be hundreds of kilometres and involve many hours in time.

In the period 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007 144 individual children were transported to visit their Mum or Dad in prison. Transport workers travelled 30,847 kilometres to ensure children were able to see and maintain their relationship with their parent in prison

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 includes:

|                 |             |                 |              |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Melissa Buckley | Marnie Long | Boris Ballango  | Sara Waller  |
| Yasmin Wilson   | Joel Palmer | Engy Reda       | Stacey Allen |
| Helen Gadd      | Rita Casser | Jeanette Taylor | Kelly Craig  |

***Current Facilitator  
Supported Children's Transport Service is Kerry Hickin***

### **9.3 Brighter Futures Project**

This year saw the expansion of the Brighter Futures Project. SHINE for Kids was fortunate to receive additional financial support from the funders to allow additional staff to be employed. This has seen a restructure of the Brighter Futures Project into key areas of service provision. These areas include three workers who are responsible for the following key areas:

1. *Intensive support for children.* Working one on one with children and identifying what they required to enable them to achieve their goals.
2. *Schools program.* An educative program targeting years five and six to assist children of prisoners develop strengths and understanding of their situation.
3. *Mentoring Program.* Working one on one with children providing positive role models, alternative opportunities and experiences for young people.
4. *Financial assistance.* Providing targeted financial assistance for direct expenses for children and young people. Items such as; sporting club fees, tutoring support, dance classes and specialised assessments.

This will allow for all program areas to grow across New South Wales and eventually to other states within Australia.

The aims of the Brighter Futures Project is:

- To develop educational, developmental and therapeutic pathways for individual children of prisoners to encourage positive educational experiences which result in feelings of self worth, enable connection with others and opportunities to identify with appropriate role models.
- To promote the development of emotional resilience, social skills and a happy disposition in children affected by parental imprisonment.

- To investigate strategies and to develop a model of working with children of prisoners which can be replicated to broaden SHINE for Kids reach to regional children.

### **The number of children utilising the Brighter Futures Programs**

|                              |   |    |
|------------------------------|---|----|
| Intensive program            | : | 45 |
| Mentoring Program            | : | 33 |
| Financial assistance program | : | 33 |
| Schools group program        | : | 72 |

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 includes:

Lisa Dalton                      Dave Scheerhoorn      Leeann Turley      Louise Blackburn  
Julie-Anne Wood              Amanda Lomas

Current Staff involved in the delivery of Brighter Futures Programs:

|                                 |   |                  |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Coordinator of Mentoring        | - | Leeann Turley    |
| Coordinator of Group Work       | - | Lisa Dalton      |
| Schools Group Worker            | - | Louise Blackburn |
| Intensive Children's Caseworker | - | Vacant           |

#### **9.3.1 Group Work Program in Schools**

SHINE for Kids provides a schools group work program to schools located within the Sydney metropolitan area . The Group Work program is offered to schools where there is a concentration of children who are experiencing having a family member in prison.

The following are some insights from our staff involved in working with children in the Schools Group Work Program.

My favourite memory – Miss JJ and I spoke about her behaviour cards – she believed that she was being victimised because she kept getting marked U for Unsatisfactory when she believed that her performance was good. I spoke about how she behaved in my classroom and fed back that I didn't think it was satisfactory. It turned out that she had no idea of what was acceptable. With her permission I took this information back to the year advisor and her behaviour cards now spell out clearly what she needs to do. She is much happier and doing better.

Kelly (behaviour team) commented about how proud the young people were, and how well they responded to positive feedback. This was supposed to be a difficult group of children but I believe that it was probably the most successful group I had worked with.

I had some special discussions with members of this group – Miss T would stay behind to talk about struggles with her dad, and Miss B and I talked about mum being in gaol, about mum coming home and then about how hard it was now that mum was out.

At another school, one of the students could not read but was a fountain of knowledge and quite articulate. I had to change the way I delivered to suit, I took out all the reading and delivered quizzes verbally, and I used a lot more symbols. This particular boy, who has a horrific background, was able to connect the Currency Kids story with his own history in New Zealand.

- **72 individual children attended group.**
- **9 groups were held in Schools.**
- **Children attended group on 576 occasions.**

### **9.3.2 Intensive children's support and financial support**

SHINE for Kids works one on one with children and young people to assist them to be the best they can. It is well recognised that by providing and encouraging children to apply themselves in school and this sets them up to be in a position to succeed later on in life. SHINE for Kids works with children and young people to ensure that they are not further disadvantaged through having a parent go to prison.

Through providing direct financial assistance to children and young people it allows for them to have opportunities to attend activities that they would otherwise not have been able to do. Activities such as playing soccer on the weekends, attending dance classes, attending school camps, additional educational support through tutoring allows children to achieve and succeed on a day to day basis.

The Intensive support worker focuses on working with a small number of children and young people intensively over a long period of time.

- **45 children participated in the intensive program.**

**Financial assistance was provided to 33 children during the year in the following four categories.**

|                         |   |             |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| Sports                  | - | 8 children  |
| Performing Arts         | - | 3 children  |
| Special excursion Needs | - | 6 children  |
| Educational Support     | - | 22 children |

### **9.3.3 Mentoring program for young people**

In meeting with mentees, mentors and carers it is evident that the Mentoring Program has changed many lives for the better. The Mentoring Program has proven capable of making positive changes not only for the children that are being mentored, but also for the carers and the families in which the children are an integral part of.

One mentor told me how he had joined the Mentoring Program with the intention of giving his all to help a child and not expecting to get a lot back in return, 'other than feeling he was doing a good deed'. He explained that over the time of the relationship he could not believe how much volunteering in a mentoring capacity had helped him grow in his own self. He confessed to 'picking the child up for the mentor outings, standing on the doorstep, feeling like a rock star, with the reception he received from his mentee on his arrival'.

The mother of a child being mentored spoke at length about her inability to cope without a mentor in her child's life and stated 'Looking back, I feel my child would not have been able to cope very well with her dad's incarceration without the quality time her mentor spend with her and the support she offered when I was not fully able to'. She went on to say that 'having her child in the mentoring program has helped her become a better mum, as the mentor support for her child, lifts her when she is feeling down'.

It is overwhelming to see first hand the extent of how the program had enhanced lives, especially for the children that have been provided with longgoing mentoring. The excitement that the children express from having a mentor shows not only in their faces when talking about experiences, but also in their achievements in their lives since beginning in the program.

One of the mentee comments, 'At school we have news every week where we have to stand up in front of the class and talk about what we did in the weekend. This was hard for me as I visited dad in jail on Saturdays and Sundays and I couldn't tell this for news. Now I have my mentor, I have so much news to tell and the other kids think its cool that I have such a special friend that takes me so many different places'.



## 9.4 Child/Parent Activity Day Project

SHINE for Kids Child/Parent Activity Days ensure children are able to stay connected to their parent and maintain their essential child - parent bond despite the barriers of prison. During 2006-2007 286 children were able to benefit emotionally from visiting with their mum or dad in a supportive environment. 61 of these children were only able to benefit from this program because SHINE for Kids was able to transport them to the Activity Day. The positive impact of this early intervention program will be evident in the emotional well being of the child in the years to come; and this contact will play a role in ensuring a smooth transition within the family home when mum or dad leaves prison.

| <b>Child Parent Day Program</b>                                       | <b>2006 - 2007</b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of children who attended the days                              | 286                |
| Number of inmate parents who attended the days                        | 160                |
| Number of children who were transported by SHINE for Kids to the days | 61                 |
| Number of inmates that identified as ATSI                             | 45                 |
| Number of inmates that identified as CALD                             | 49                 |
| Number of volunteers who assisted with the days                       | 16                 |

SHINE for Kids facilitates Child/Parent Activity Days in Correctional Centres throughout New South Wales. This program involves SHINE for Kids staff and volunteers taking craft/games into Correctional Centres to help assist inmate parents to interact, develop and maintain their relationship with their children in a relaxed child friendly environment without the chaos or formalities of a normal prison visit. The majority of child/parent days are in school holidays as this is the peak time to deliver our program to enable all children to attend.

### Time Together

Prior to the day, SHINE for Kids conducts checks and assessments focussing on the child's needs to ensure the suitability of participating inmates. SHINE for Kids role on the day is to provide support, encouragement and appropriate activities for all ages that encourage interactive play between the child and parent. There has been a huge increase to our 0-3 year old range attending as carers are recognising the importance of this program to help maintain and encourage the bond between parent and child. The inmate feels quite empowered having to care and have sole responsibility for their child. SHINE for Kids staff offer the parent support and in many cases lessons in nappy changing, bottle-feeding, spoon-feeding, burping, and soothing their baby. The comments and pleasure these parents experience from achieving these tasks is crucial to the parent/child bond.



*Parent Comments:*

*"Look miss he is fast asleep, I did it!"*

*"This is the first time I have ever given a bottle, am I doing it right?"*

*"This is my first nappy change, I'm scared, are you sure I am doing it right?"*

**The Benefits to Children**

As the children leave, it is typical to hear the children yelling out to their parent and for the parent to say back until they are out of site of each other:

*"Love you, Miss you, love you, see you soon, love you"*

SHINE for Kids staff receive the most precious gift of all, a smile and a hug from the children and a big thankyou and always with a leaving comment,

*"When is the next one? I had so much fun with my....."*

**9.4.1 Family Days**

SHINE for Kids also participated in Family/Gala days at Silverwater, Parklea, John Morony 1 and Special Purpose Unit Long Bay. These are days are when the gaol facilitates family visits and we support the day by supplying staff and volunteers to provide and assist craft and face painting to the children that attend. **A total of 215 children attended these days.**

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 includes:

Sharon Mumford  
Lisa Hawkins  
Tina Corr

Kerry Hickin  
Erin Kester

***Current Facilitator of Child/Parent Days is Tina Corr***

## 5. Toddler Program

### 9.5.1 John Morony II

SHINE for Kids Toddler Program allows children an opportunity to spend quality time getting to know their dads and for the dads to understand and develop a closer relationship with their pre-school aged children.

The Toddler Program runs every Friday fortnight in the visits area for two and half hours focusing on getting the Dads involved with playing and communicating with their pre-school aged children.

### 9.5.2 Expansion to John Morony I

SHINE for Kids received numerous approaches to operate this program at John Morony I correctional centre. The Toddler program runs every Friday fortnight, alternating between, John Morony I and John Morony II.

John Morony 1 has many young dads within the correctional centre and already four dads and six children are participating in the program with the numbers increasing.

| <b>Toddler Program – John Morony I</b>                                | <b>2006 - 2007</b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of children who attended the program                           | 6                  |
| Number of inmate parents who attended the program                     | 6                  |
| Number of children who were transported by SHINE for Kids to the days | 3                  |
| Number of inmates that identified as ATSI                             | 0                  |
| Number of inmates that identified as CALD                             | 2                  |
| Number of volunteers who assisted with the days                       | 0                  |

| <b>Toddler Program – John Morony II</b>                               | <b>2006 - 2007</b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of children who attended the program                           | 30                 |
| Number of inmate parents who attended the program                     | 17                 |
| Number of children who were transported by SHINE for Kids to the days | 4                  |
| Number of inmates that identified as ATSI                             | 4                  |
| Number of inmates that identified as CALD                             | 3                  |
| Number of volunteers who assisted with the days                       | 1                  |

## **Partnerships & Volunteer Involvement**

Relationships Australia provide a half hour information session to the inmates prior to the arrival of their children, which focus' on any relevant issues the dad's wish to explore that would involve their children, using all the relevant and up to date information by the group worker.

Relationships Australia provides relationship/parenting counseling at no cost to the inmate dads upon their release and their families.

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting the staff of SHINE for kids in the delivery of the program, without their ongoing support, we may be limited on our service provision.

## **Benefits to the Children**

The Toddler program aims to allow dads to focus on their child's needs, providing an opportunity to develop and foster a healthy loving relationship with their child. The aim is to provide appropriate age/stage activities that the child and father can do together. By focusing on the child's needs, the father begins to regain his skills and make programming choices in the running of the program. A parenting skill, which become lost when they are incarcerated. Strengthening parenting skills with up to date knowledge and encouraging positive interaction is a means of providing a better future for the children of the fathers caught in the cycle of crime. The program provides many opportunities for the father to gain a greater understanding on the importance of his role as a parent, therefore, making the right choices through positive changes in his own life, which reflects into the lives of his children.

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 include:

Tina Corr   Lisa Hawkins   Kerry Hickin   Sharon Mumford

***Current Facilitator of Toddler Program is Tina Corr***

## **9.6 Children's Supported Group Work Program**

It really has been a triumphant year for the Group Work program, with many successes and few challenges. In that time I have progressed from part-time Group Worker to full-time Group Work Coordinator. I was also given the opportunity to coordinate the Brighter Futures Program (on an interim basis) which further enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the variety of programs SHINE for Kids offers children of prisoners.

On a daily basis I get to work with the most courageous young people and their families and I continue to be amazed at their strength, resilience and ability to cope. The program remains committed to working in partnership with families, schools and communities in delivering appropriate services and support to children who have a parent or family member in prison.

During the year group outings were planned for each school holiday and monthly outings also took place. These provided the children with an opportunity to engage in fun age appropriate activities. A number of outings were offered by KPMG, the Property Industry Foundation and Sydney Olympic Park Authority. We also received very generous ticket donations from CareFlight and many other organisations. This generous support from the business and community sector enables us to offer once in a lifetime opportunities to our children and families.

Therapeutic community groups were delivered in Doonside Public School and Don Bosco's Youth Centre providing support to 8 children on a weekly basis. The groups offered peer support and an opportunity for the children to share very traumatic experiences in a safe, non-judgmental environment.

In January work commenced on reviewing the group work model within SHINE for Kids. The school based program 'Currency Kids' was consolidated with the community based program and a strength-based, solution-focused program called 'Discovering Our Strengths' was developed. A full time Group Worker was recruited and a consultant psychologist who was contracted to provide training and support to the group work team in developing the program and implementing a model of best practice. A social work student also commenced placement with the organisation and joined the Group Work team.

'Discovering Our Strengths' draws on themes and exercises from Currency Kids, using powerful mediums such as story telling, games, role play, music, art and interactive discussion to acknowledge and affirm what is already working for each child. Each activity is designed to assist children identify and build upon their skills and strengths, which leaves them feeling more hopeful and competent. The program is aimed at 8 – 13 year old children and is delivered over an 8 week period. Sessions run for approx 90 minutes each week and cater for a maximum of 8 participants. The program aims to improve the life chances of children affected by parental imprisonment by helping them to SHINE. We support them, give them hope, inspire, nurture and empower them.

| <b>Children's Group Work Program</b>                                      | <b>2006 - 2007</b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of children who participated in the program                        | 204                |
| Number of inmates that identified as ATSI                                 | 18                 |
| Number of inmates that identified as CALD                                 | 24                 |
| Number of volunteers who assisted with the program                        | 22                 |
| Number of volunteer hours given to the program                            | 352                |
| Number of student placements  | 1                  |
| Number of student placement hours given to the program                    | 385                |
| Number of children who participated in the therapeutic group work program | 56                 |
| Number of attendances at group  | 433                |
| Number of different groups held   | 10                 |
| Number of day trips undertaken with children                              | 18                 |
| Number of children that attended day trips                                | 183                |

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 included:

David Scheerhoorn

Lisa Dalton

Louise Blackburn

***Current Coordinator of Group Work Program is Lisa Dalton***

## **9.7 Intake, Referral and Assessment - Child & Family Support**

SHINE for Kids has refined its Intake, Referral and Assessment process over the past twelve months. A centralised intake, referral and assessment case management model across the organisation was developed. This centralised model allows for effective and efficient case management of children and families to occur.

- The case management model involves providing sustained, individualised care and support to children and young people. All services give paramount consideration to what is in the best interest of the child or young person.

### **The key outcomes are to:**

- Improve the emotional, psychological and physical well-being of children of prisoners;
- Assist an inmate's ability to reintegrate into their family when they are released;
- Foster the resumption of parenting responsibilities on a parent's release from gaol;
- Assist a carer's ability to appropriately care and support their children during the imprisonment of a parent.

**Number of new referrals**

**- 716**

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 included:

Alison Cowell  
Wendy Turner

Beata Malinowsky

Julie-Anne Wood

Amanda Lomas

**Current Intake and Assessment Worker is Beata Malinowsky**



## 9.8 Video Visits Program – Video Conferencing

The Video Visits Program links children with their mum or dad in prison. Primarily the video conferences are for those families who live a long way from the Correctional Centre and find it hard to visit the incarcerated family member due to distance, transport issues, financial hardship, illness or disability. SHINE for Kids organises a location with video technology for the family, liaises with the gaol, family and the video conferencing site culminating in a one hour link-up between mum or dad and their children.

Much work has been undertaken in this period to enable the Video Visits Program to be expanded and available to more families irrespective of where the offender is held.

This program initially was only available to people held in Mulawa, Bathurst or Cessnock correctional centres. In 2007 a Commissioner's Memorandum was released and saw the program extended to include the following centres:

|                                  |  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Bathurst Correctional Centre     | Grafton Correctional Centre              | Mulawa Correctional Centre          |
| Broken Hill Correctional Centre  | John Morony 1 Correctional Centre *      | Mid North Coast Correctional Centre |
| Cessnock Correctional Centre     | Junee Correctional Centre                | Parklea Correctional Centre         |
| Dillwynia Correctional Centre    | Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre     | Parramatta Correctional Centre      |
| Emu Plains Correctional Centre * | Lithgow Correctional Centre              | Silverwater Correctional Centre *   |
| High Risk Management Unit (HRMU) | Long Bay Hospital 2                      | Special Purpose Centre              |
| Goulburn Correctional Centre     | Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre |                                     |

\* Not yet operational

**Breaking the barrier of distance – the number of video visits undertaken.**

|                                      |   |    |
|--------------------------------------|---|----|
| Number of Video Visits undertaken    | - | 52 |
| Number of adults that participated   | - | 19 |
| Number of children that participated | - | 22 |
| Number of inmates that participated  | - | 11 |

### **A Child's Experience**

For the last four years a little boy has been visiting his mum on a weekly basis via video link up at Mulawa and then Dillwynia Correctional Centre. During their visits they worked together on his homework sharing a moment most kids take for granted. His three brothers and sisters also visit their mum via video link up every fortnight. Every school holidays these children have a face-to-face visit with their mum. These four children, who live with the double hardship of having both parents in prison, also visit their dad in prison during the school holidays.

Staff involved in the delivery of program for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 included:

Alison Cowell

Angie Trevor-Jones

Beata Malinowsky

**Current Facilitator of Video Visits Program is Beata Malinowsky**

## **9.9 Breaking the Cycle Project**

### **Targeting families in the Central West**

Breaking the Cycle Project aims to help families in the community who reside in the Central West area of New South Wales over a period of 33 months. Established in stages from November 2005 this project is establishing networks, partnerships, and links in the local area.

#### **9.9.1 Project focus**

Breaking the Cycle Project is working to improve the educational outcomes for children whose lives are touched by the criminal justice system by:

- Assisting young parents to further their education and access other services where they are seeking to make the transition to employment;
- Introducing a mentoring program for children and young people;
- Providing individual and group counselling;
- Building opportunities and skills for economic self-reliance in families and communities;
- Building parenting relationships and skills which will create opportunities for positive outcomes for children and young people;
- Strengthen families by providing educational support.

The project is comprised of three overlapping areas and three new roles:

- The Coordinator who is responsible for case management, counselling and parenting/relationship skills both inside and out side the prison;
- The Mentor Project Worker is responsible for the introduction and overseeing of the Mentor Program;
- The Children's Support Worker develops and implements an educational focused program for children and young people attending the Winangaay Child and Family Centre.

### 9.9.2 Mentoring Program – Central West

Mentoring Program has commenced and we are starting to see the benefits to the children and families. On meeting with the children and carers in the program it was pleasing to see that the Mentoring Program had brought about such positive results. One carer stated 'My son gets out of bed and waits by the window when he knows his mentor is about to arrive. It is great to see him looking forward to his outings'. She talked about how much her sons self esteem and communication skills had lifted since being matched with a mentor several months ago.

This is a new initiative in the Central West, further funding was made possible after the success of the Sydney Mentoring Program. Since the beginning of the program, Mentors have been successfully recruited and trained. Training has been negotiated through Bathurst TAFE at no cost. The training occurs over four Saturdays.

#### Annual Statistics

**3 children have been participating in the mentoring program**

**10 mentors have been recruited and trained in the mentoring program**

### 9.9.3 Educational Support Program

#### Programs for Children Accessing the Winangaay Centre

The Children's Support Worker develops changing themes to decorate the Child and Family Centre. This approach allows for the use of imagination and decoration of the centre through the changing display of stimulating pictures and projects. The Children's Support Worker develops activity booklets for each theme which includes such activities as a maze, sentence completion activities, word searches, spot the difference, creating a story from a stimulus picture, and recognising similar and different objects. These booklets provide children with the opportunity to develop their literacy and problem solving skills. Themes this year have included In the Jungle, Our Garden, Pets, Winter and Australia.



The purchase of new educational resources particularly for pre-school age children has been really beneficial. This is probably the largest age group and the ones often needing the most help to make these children “school ready”. Simple activities like matching pictures and shapes, colour and letter recognition, and practicing fine motor skills through manipulation of blocks and cards are all pre-writing skills which will assist these children in their transition to school. A good start can improve confidence and ultimately, all school outcomes. These resources, as well as the appropriate social interactions in the centre with other children, are valuable for all children, whether they visit once or regularly.

#### Literacy, Language and Communication Skills

Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Christmas and Easter are all opportunities to write letters and cards, which all children enjoy. Using the computer is also very beneficial, as many children do not have computer access at home and limited access at school, so are able to gain necessary skills at the Centre. Just learning something as simple as which program is used for writing, how to change fonts and text colour, and printing off their work to give to Dad or take home gives children a great sense of accomplishment. The camera is used frequently to add a photo to the child’s letter, which parents really appreciate.

Reading books is also a frequent activity, with sometimes 3 or 4 children all trying to get closer to hear a story read aloud. Re-reading favourite books helps children with word recognition and vocabulary.

#### Cognitive and Social Skills

Art and craft activities are valuable for children in problem solving, as they decide how to achieve their goal, whether it be in painting a picture, modelling, or creating jewellery or paper flowers. Computer games also help with cognitive and social skills, as children solve problems, remember processes, and wait their turn. We have recently purchased new games which are challenging the children.

In outdoor play, children are encouraged to use their imagination in creating their own games and finding alternative uses for equipment. In interactions with one another they learn appropriate language and behaviour for building respectful relationships.

#### **Individual Programs**

During the December quarter, individual tutoring on weekdays began for one child who was preparing for the transition from Primary to High School. This was an important change to the operation of the program, as this child’s parent is not at Bathurst Correctional Centre, so he was not attending the Child and Family Centre during the weekend visiting period. Given that the weekends can be quite crowded and busy in the Child and Family Centre, a trial began in March to allow more time for scheduling one – on – one educational support sessions on weekdays.

These sessions have the benefit of no distractions and allow for specific planning of appropriate activities for each child. More recently another child began an individual program during the week while her mother attended counselling. A regular child on the weekends also received individual support with learning computer and literacy skills.

### Statistics

Numbers have increased this year, with the December quarter a particularly busy period with many regular children attending the centre. An encouraging trend has been more local children with a regular and stable pattern of attendance, enabling planning for provision of educational support more focused.

| July 2006 - June 2007            | AGES      |           |          | ATSI      | NESB     | TOTALS    |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                                  | 0 - 5     | 6 - 12    | 13 +     |           |          |           |
| Children supported at the centre | 31        | 36        | 0        | 16        | 4        | <b>67</b> |
| Children in individual programs  | 1         | 2         | 0        | 2         | 0        | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL CHILDREN</b>            | <b>32</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>70</b> |

#### 9.9.4 Group work

In September 2006 we hosted a morning tea to meet the families and offer them support and parenting skills through group work. Following the morning tea four ongoing participants attended weekly group meetings. Bathurst TAFE outreach came aboard with this program offering TAFE based modules covering:

- aromatherapy
- massage
- stress relief techniques

The group commented that they look forward to the weekly meetings in which they can also discuss issues affecting their families in a non-judgemental and safe environment. In February 2007 TAFE outreach again begin delivering TAFE based modules, the focus has been around how to communicate with others about routine matters. The elements of competency and performance criteria for these modules are:

- Accurate receiving and processing of routine information;
- Use of active listening skills and questioning;
- Seeking and giving feedback;
- Acknowledgement of individual differences;
- Giving a set of clear instructions and reflecting on ones own performance.

Through the year the number of participants attending the skills and support group has steadily maintained. Currently we average between 5 – 7 carers attending weekly sessions from 10 am to 12:30 pm every Thursday. Each group session is concluded with a morning tea followed by an informal discussion.



**Positive outcomes from this group include:**

- Carers are now accessing mainstream TAFE courses to further their education, training and life skills.
- Increased communication skills that they now use within the family unit.
- Carers are grateful for the time out from the family home and enjoy the social aspect of coming together with other carer's who face similar issues.



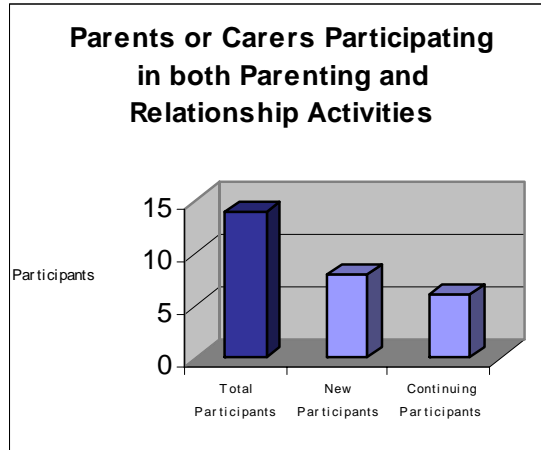
**9.9.5 Counselling**

Carers are supported by counselling and learning new parenting skills, social skills, and are empowered in the management of personal and practical issues involved with caring for children during the incarceration of a partner, such as finding accommodation, child care and schooling. Through effective support and counselling we have been able to assist clients to build skills for effective relationships within the family unit.

This year has seen counselling numbers average between five to seven on going clients. Currently I am seeing five female carers and two children.

The main issues faced by the clients are:

- The difficulties of being a sole parent
- Dealing with the stigma attached to having a parent/partner incarcerated
- Housing
- Isolation
- Depression
- Low Literacy and numeracy skills
- Financial



Staff involved in the delivery of the various programs under the Breaking the Cycle Project for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 included:

- Tanya Peachey
- Kirsten Ware
- Sharon Jones
- Candice Poole
- Susanna Brown
- Leeann Turley
- Jeni Monks

***Current Project Worker of Breaking the Cycle Project is Tanya Peachey***

## **10 Treasurer's Report**

It is with great pleasure that I present my second Treasurer's report for SHINE for Kids ("SHINE").

The organisation experienced its strongest financial performance in the year ended 30 June 2007, thanks to the continued support of SHINE's funding bodies. With their support, SHINE was able to offer many valuable services to the children of prisoners. SHINE received new funding which enabled expansion and development of new program areas, in particular the Toddler program and Transport program. SHINE employed fundraisers in February 2007 to help raise awareness and much needed revenue.

Overall, the organisation had a deficit of \$18,460, funded from prior year surpluses. It has maintained a strong positive cash balance throughout the year.

A summary of the financial performance of the main programs is provided below:

- Funding from the Department of Corrective services for the Sydney Metro division increased by 3% from prior year as SHINE negotiated a new three-year contract. SHINE received a one-off grant under "Victims of Crime" to produce a booklet "Putting Your Child First – A survival guide for carers of children of prisoners, their families and workers." This booklet highlights the impact crime has on children and is a valuable resource that can be expanded. SHINE also received a grant for \$50,000 that has contributed to a 107% increase in transport services to children. The future involves the expansion of child Child and Family Centres to Wellington, Cessnock and Parklea, thanks to the continued support of the Department of Corrective Services.
- Funding from the Department of Community Services ("DoCs") increased by 3% to reflect the consumer price index. Prior year funding included a one-off fixed term funding amount of \$20,000 to assist the organisation in meeting the DoCs results accountability requirements, which was expended in the current year, contributing to the deficit of \$34,732.
- The development and expansion of the Toddler program resulted from \$43,300 funding received from the Perpetual Foundation in January 2007.
- All other existing programs have remained constant and expenses have been in line with budget expectations.
- Bringing on board the fundraisers has been an exciting addition to SHINE. In the last financial year, SHINE benefited from the proceeds of a fundraising Breakfast which was held at KPMG. The fundraisers have been busy conducting strategic and operational marketing to raise new funding and increase awareness of SHINE. The full financial effects of their efforts will be reflected in the next financial year.

This is an area of growth for SHINE and together we aim to expand all services and programs.

The full Auditor's report is published in this Annual Report and our auditors Myers & Naumburger have issued an unqualified report.

On behalf of the Board of Management, I wish to thank the funding bodies for their continued support and financial contributions to the organisation. I would also like to thank SHINE for the high quality of financial information provided to facilitate the strategic review of financial performance against the financial objectives of the organisation.



**Arthur Begetis**  
**Treasurer**



***SHINE for Kids***  
*Annual Report*  
*November 2007*

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

**(02) 9714 3000**

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