

overview

Children, young people and families of offenders are often the hidden, secondary victims of crime. They may experience marginalisation, stigmatisation and poverty, as an unintended consequence of a family member's contact with the criminal justice system.

SKY provides support to these children and young people through counselling and mentoring.

SKY ensures that while services are directed towards children and young people, other family members can also access support and information.

contact us

To enquire about SKY please contact VACRO:

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A collaboration between VACRO and the R.E. Ross Trust



THE
R.E. ROSS
TRUST

in partnership with



SHINE for Kids

**Supporting
kids & youth**
...who have a family member
in the criminal justice
system



counselling

The experience of having a family member in the criminal justice system impacts on children and young people in different ways, and may require specialist support.

SKY offers free counselling to children, young people (aged 5 to 17) and their families.

Counselling can assist in the development of coping skills, resilience, self esteem and relationship building.

Established in 1872, VACRO has a strong history of providing this support and information to families and individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system.



what people say

"The best thing is that ...(the worker) sees a lot of other kids in the same situation" *'Mother'*

"It was just explained to him that it was quite normal to feel this way – and do something to help him to get over it. We were not looking for medical help – we were looking for something to give the kid some inner strength".
'Grandfather'

"It's hard to talk to people about how hard it is to have dad in jail. Sometimes I want everyone to think its OK when its not. My mentor listens without wanting to know everything I think. He doesn't think badly of me for loving my dad, he just did the wrong thing. He's still dad."
'Jeremy', November 2008

"I started mentoring with the intention of helping a child but not expecting a lot in return except to feel that I was doing a good deed. Now however I can't believe how much being a mentor has helped me grow personally."
'Julie', October 2008

"Be the change. Mentor a child."
'Barak Obama', 18 December 2008



mentoring

SKY Mentoring links young people who have a parent in the criminal justice system with an approved, trained and supervised mentor in a supportive, caring, non-judgemental relationship.

Young people aged 8 to 17 years are matched with a volunteer mentor whose role, over a 12 month period, is to provide support to the young person by spending time with them and assisting them to participate in social activities to enhance personal growth, development of skills and self esteem.

Mentoring can make a real and positive difference to the lives of children and young people and the lives of their families.

Over 25 years in NSW, SHINE for Kids has developed an expertise in working with children and young people who have a parent in prison or in the criminal justice system.

SHINE for Kids is now operating in Victoria.

