



## SHINE for Kids

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### MEDIA RELEASE

17 June 2014

#### APPEAL TO CANBERRA TO REVERSE KEMPSEY FUNDING CUT

SHINE for Kids has appealed to the Federal Government to review its decision to cut off funding for a ground-breaking crime-prevention and family support program on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

Since 2010, *Belonging to Family* has been assisting the families and children of imprisoned parents in the Kempsey region.

“This program has supported 79 inmates and 459 children,” the Chief Executive Officer of SHINE for Kids, Ms Gloria Larman, said today.

“The program has strong community support and has delivered results. The records show that 65 per cent of inmates involved in *Belonging to Family* have not re-offended or returned to prison.

“We fear that the Federal Budget decision to cut off funding will result in a dramatic increase in recidivism, unemployment, drug and alcohol use and community violence in the Kempsey region.

“We believe that the Federal Government should at least provide the program with interim funding for six or 12 months. It has already provided such interim support for other programs affected by Budget cuts.”

Ms Larman said that *Belonging to Family* sought to address issues such as poverty and unemployment and substance abuse by enlisting the help of families and the community.

“However, *Belonging to Family* cannot continue without Federal Government funding,” she said.

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

Helping children with a parent in the criminal justice system and their families throughout New South Wales, ACT and Victoria  
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Locations at Silverwater, Parklea, Winler, Bathurst, Cessnock, Wellington, Junee, Kempsey, Kariong, Canberra, Footscray, Lara and Ravenhall

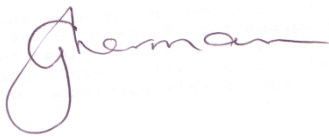
[www.shineforkids.org.au](http://www.shineforkids.org.au)

“SHINE for Kids has written to all relevant Federal Ministers and Shadow Ministers regarding this funding issue.

“We are today asking the local community to join us in this appeal to Canberra to save a unique and highly-effective program.”

For three decades **SHINE for Kids**, a non-profit organisation supported by governments and other benefactors and stakeholders, has worked with and for young Australians affected by family member involvement in the criminal justice system. The organisation has supported them, helped create hope and inspired them to reach their potential.

In NSW, **SHINE for Kids** centres are located at Silverwater, Parklea, Windsor, Kariong, Bathurst, Cessnock, Wellington, Junee and Kempsey. In Victoria, there is an office at Footscray and programs operating at Lara (Barwon) and Ravenhall. There is also a program operating in Canberra at the Alexander Maconochie facility.



**Gloria Larman**  
Chief Executive Officer

More information on SHINE for Kids can be found at [www.shineforkids.org.au](http://www.shineforkids.org.au)

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## FACTS

### BELONGING TO FAMILY

- **Belonging to Family** is a program delivered by SHINE for Kids in the NSW Mid North Coast region of Kempsey.
- The region ranks in the top 10 per cent of 'Australia's most disadvantaged communities'. (ABS Census, 2011).
- Since 2010, **Belonging to Family** has assisted the families and children of incarcerated Aboriginal men and women.
- The program is tailored for Aboriginal parents with six to 12 months left to serve and uses group work to strengthen family and community connections.
- The program works to address complex issues such as poverty, drug and alcohol use and mental health issues by supporting and strengthening the family unit.
- Three experienced Aboriginal support workers are employed under the program and there are an additional 40 Aboriginal volunteers involved.
- **Since 2010, seventy-nine inmates have participated in the program and 459 children have been supported.**
- As a result, just under **65 per cent of the inmates have not re-offended or returned to prison since participating in the program.**
- **Belonging to Family** is a highly successful and unique program, with strong community support. Without continuing Commonwealth Government funding, it will cease.
- With the funding cut-off, SHINE for Kids believes there will be a dramatic increase in recidivism, unemployment, drug and alcohol use and community violence in the Kempsey region.