



*The Rotary Club of Brisbane*

## **Rotary Club of Brisbane**

### **Youth Scholarships**

**In support of disadvantaged young people of Brisbane**

**Brisbane Youth Service**  
New futures for young people





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## **Rotary Club of Brisbane Youth Scholarships**

### **Executive Summary**

The Rotary Club of Brisbane will partner with BYS and sponsor a program, to provide scholarships to disadvantage youth under the aegis of the Brisbane Youth Service and assist those young people who are motivated and ready to take on extra training.

Sponsorships are set at a maximum of \$1,500 per individual and the initial sponsorship for the 2009/2010 financial year is \$15,000.

The Brisbane Youth Service has been operating for over 30 years to assist young homeless and disadvantaged people develop stable autonomous lives.

Over the last two years BYS has developed employment and training programs that support young people who have not had the opportunities to develop necessary skills to seek or acquire employment. The Employment and Training program however does not have sufficient funds and staff to support the needs of all the young people who come to BYS and who are motivated to extend their skills.



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### **Brisbane Youth Service**

Brisbane Youth Service is a community organisation that provides support for and works with homeless young people and their children to work through a plan to improve their circumstances for the benefit of themselves and the wider community. For 31 years BYS has provided long-term assistance to help young people better understand their situation and make more positive choices. Over 1,000 young people each year turn to BYS for;

- Street outreach
- Emergency Assistance
- A drop-in day centre
- Structured activities like art, music and sport
- Food, clothing and use of showers and laundry
- Free mental and physical medical services
- Family reunification
- Pregnancy and parenting support
- Emergency accommodation and housing placement support
- Help finding work or vocational training



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### **Program Structure**

- The Rotary Club of Brisbane Youth Scholarship program would consist of a number of scholarships to the total value of \$15,000 for FY 2009/2010, with each scholarship being up to a maximum of \$1,500.
- The scholarships would fund a range of courses that are appropriate to each client and match their education and skill level.
- BYS Case Managers would identify the clients who are ready to take on extra study and submit a proposal to the Training and Employment team.
- This team would then inform the Rotary Club of Brisbane. As each scholarship was awarded. The Club panel would allocate a Supervisor and a ceremony would be conducted to present the scholarships to the young people by the Club President or their nominee..
- The Club could then continue their involvement through the Supervisor with the young person by supporting them through their education and training. Supervision would consist of phone and face to face meetings and would add to the support and increase the positive outcomes for that young person. Where possible and appropriate some direct tuition could take place.



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### **The Rotary Club of Brisbane Project**

- To commit in 2009/2010 \$15,000 in funds for the project
- To provide Supervisor(s) for each scholarship awardee
- To raise or contribute funds to cover the project
- To provide any services that will enhance the project, the awardees, or BYS. Services might include:
  - Coaching
  - Employment or employment leads
  - Mentoring
  - Business advice
  - acquisition of special requests on equipment
  - support BYS staff
  - removing "blocks" for BYS customers



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### **Tristan's Story – A story of hope and success**

My name is Tristan Cullen and I am a former homeless person and I would like to tell you a little bit about my story and how through the good work done at BYS I managed to turn my life around.

I would like to start if I may with a little background history. I was kicked out of home at the age of 14 and had to live on the streets, and I slept in numerous squats around the city and in places such as parks, under bridges, old rundown abandoned buildings and various other places. I survived by begging and yes washing windows at traffic lights.

I first met the BYS workers through their outreach program when I was living on the streets, I began using the BYS services on a regular basis as it was a safe place where I could get something to eat, take part in a variety of activities and gain access to services I would otherwise not know about.

I was interested in cars and all things mechanical. Through the support of Wayne, a BYS case worker I found some stable accommodation and began to make plans to finish my education with the intention of setting up an auto-detailing business - This gave birth to ABTC Auto Detailing. I was given so much help by

BYS in my journey to become who I am today. I am also a proud father of 3 beautiful children to which I am now the sole carer.

We started ABTC Auto Detailing as a model business designed to target the long term unemployed and homeless persons of our community, over 90% of homeless people have been abused either sexually or physically in the family home which in turn leads them to living on the streets to escape the abuse. To survive they turn to begging, stealing or sexwork which generally leads to drugs. So you have this homeless person with all that own they are wearing, how do they get a job?

When Centrelink sends them to a job interview, they have no work clothes, no boots, no food, no place to sleep and no place to wash their clothes or themselves they are being set up to fail which leads to Centrelink withdrawing financial support which makes them worse off than they were before.

However, by working with BYS and by having a personal understanding of the needs of these homeless kids we can offer training and employment to give these young people the self-confidence and belief needed to better themselves in life and we can also play our part in the quest to combat long-term unemployment and homelessness in Brisbane. So the next time you need your vehicle needs to be washed think ABTC Auto Detailing and help someone pull his or her life together.

Finally none of this would be possible if it weren't for the good people at BYS and the wonderful people who support this vital community organisation that plays such an important role in our community.