

Media Release
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It's great if you have a family to talk to you about drugs - But what if you don't?

There is no doubt that many of the young people from **Youth Insearch** have had to endure more blows in their short life than most people in a lifetime. Many of them don't have a family to talk to them about drugs.So who talks to them?

“Overcoming huge burdens such as family breakdown, drug and alcohol abuse, physical or sexual abuse, contemplating suicide and the feelings of isolation, places us in a unique position to be able to talk about these issues with authority” said 18 year old Heath Ducker a Youth Leader in the program.

Heath, now completing a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and a Bachelor of Law, owes his life to Youth Insearch.

“As a kid I lived in extreme poverty and experienced the trauma of sexual abuse. Youth Insearch focuses on the reasons why young people choose a path of self destruction”.

“I think this initiative is great, if you've got a mum and dad who care to sit down with you. What if you don't? The Government must look much deeper than the drug problem, we must address why it is happening in the first place” said Heath.

Since 1985, 22,000 young people have participated in the Youth Insearch program. **Youth Insearch** conducts weekend Camps for young people between **14-20 years of age from differing backgrounds and lifestyles**. At the Camps, a safe and trusting atmosphere is created where young people feel comfortable to discuss emotional issues relating to family breakdown, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual abuse and grief related issues.

Participants are able to draw on the experiences from each other and establish new goals and directions, taking control of their lives and realising their full potential.

Youth Insearch is not affiliated with any religious organisation.

“Young people need to be loved and they need to have discipline. We need to focus more on providing this safe environment for them to grow up in.” said Heath

To interview Heath Ducker or the Founder of Youth Insearch Ron Barr OAM, please contact Paul Simpson on 9659 6122 or 0410 66 5961