

**Media Release**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2003**  
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**FOR RELEASE AFTER 9.00PM 7/8/03**

## **Ron Barr...This is your Life**

The founder of the Youth Insearch program Ron Barr will be featured this Thursday night at 8.30pm on the Nine Networks 'This is your Life'.

Ron has dedicated his amazing life to "making half people into whole people" and over the last 18 years has helped thousands of disadvantaged kids to rebuild their lives.

"Youth Insearch addresses the reasons of why young people fall into a cycle of self destruction. It encourages young people themselves to seek positive alternatives in their lives" said Ron.

Since 1985, over 24,000 young people have participated in the program, with some outstanding results.

"I am always inspired and motivated when I see young people turn their lives around", said Ron.

Gemma Dalton was one of those kids. After experiencing terrible episodes of sexual abuse, Gemma began on a path of self abuse. "My life was heading downhill very quickly", said Gemma

"If it wasn't for Youth Insearch, I honestly wouldn't be here today" said Gemma. Gemma now has her own family and is one of the guests on 'This is your Life' acknowledging Ron's wonderful work.

Ron is passionate about the importance of the family unit. "In my experience, young people need to be brought up with an equal amount of love and fair discipline. It is these two things that kids are crying out for. We need to re-establish the importance of the family unit" said Ron.

"Generally speaking, young people are a reflection of their families and the society that they live in" said Ron.

Youth Insearch is currently established throughout New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland.

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