Giving from the Inside

A Practical Guide to Juveniles and Reparation Projects

Western Australia
Difficult for young people to make the link between *indirect reparation* and making amends to society for criminal behaviour.

Reparation is often viewed as a punishment. Young people may resent having to do reparation
Reparation must become part of the school culture.

Define a process for reparation.

Travel slowly and be prepared to change direction.
1. Understand the Juvenile Mindset

1. Young people are very self centered.
2. We need to create a mentality of, “it is your centre.”
3. No understanding of the “unknown” victim.
4. Poverty often makes young people want to keep everything for themselves.
5. Often the young people in detention are survivors, they have learned to survive by taking...not giving.
Find meaningful projects:

From the school or detention community
(Gardens, worm farms, limestone blocks, TOYL Team, Culture Centre, BBQ areas etc)

From the local community
( Rotary projects, Animal/ Bird Sanctuaries, Children’s Homes)

From Australia
( Gift Sticks, Fires)

Overseas.
( African projects)

Use newspapers, speakers, clubs etc……..

Allow projects to find you!
A staff leader for each project is important. Empower staff to run the program.

Student leaders tend to emerge in the process.

Ownership can transfer from staff member to young person.
Kenya Aid’s Orphans

Real photos by real people. Huge impact. Let the students ask the questions. Let them challenge. This is how they validate and accept.
4. Source Materials Cheaply

Be creative in sourcing materials.
Hand towels from Colin Street Day Surgery.
Hundreds of bags have been made by detainees
and sent to Africa over the last 6 years.
National Days can be a very good starting point for reparation.
Kimberley Toad busters approached Banksia Hill to assist making toad traps.

No commitment. Education first.

Students must take interest and suggest reparation.

Students may not relate to what as an adult relates to. Be prepared for lack of interest.
Woodwork Boxes Re-Decorated for Parkerville Children’s Home ‘Treasure Boxes’
Students often do not know how to contribute to a community.
Provide educational opportunities for young people so that they can make links between what is needed in the community and what they can do to contribute.

E.g. Sports Coaching, Horticulture Skills, Vocational Skills, Music/Art.

Teach the connection!! Do not assume that it will happen automatically.
5. Expect Limited Participation at First

Encourage those who wish to participate. Others will often follow.

Reparation must be voluntary.

Discuss reparation in context and during the activity.
Detainees are currently involved in the 7th year of a project in partnership with the Perth Zoo. Detainees have been involved in planting, maintaining and harvesting specialised plant foods needed by some zoo animals. The zoo garden has approximately 500 exotic plants in different stages of growth. Detainees are involved outside school hours and inside school hours. This was a custodial project that grew to be a whole centre project. Ownership has switched hands a number of times depending on interest.
Alternative Skills Centre in the Community- This project came about as a result of the Broome Mosaic Project in detention.
Provide long term opportunities so that projects can belong to many students not just one group.
Outdoor Classroom
10. Combining Skills

Combine projects. Art and Metalwork.

If students can do something willingly for the centre than they have the concept of reparation.
6. Transferable Skills

Link to skills that are transferable to the outside.

Teamwork
Practical skills
Investigation
Design
Even failure!!!!
For many young people that are in detention or involved in the corrective services system the positive consequences of behaviour are often as difficult to face as the negative aspects of their behaviour.
Students engaged through newspapers and the news in Australia. Girls were saddened by animal stories in the news.
The detainees at Rangeview Remand Centre in Western Australia have been greatly affected by the tragedy that has resulted from the Victorian Bush Fires.

We asked ourselves what we could do to help. In the past we have sewn Joey pouches for local animal shelters and thought this could be something we do for injured animals from the fires. Our textile teacher was quick to get moving on the project and together we have been busy sewing these bags for you to use.

Even though we are remanded and detained in custody we are still people who care about the community and would never wish pain, hurt, grief or suffering upon anyone or anything. We feel very sad that good people and innocent animals have experienced such pain because of the fires. We are offering our help because we care. We were so touched to see the footage of the fire fighter giving water to a beautiful yet terrified koala and the koala accepting and understanding the act of kindness. It really touched our hearts and prompted us to take action and do something.

Our contribution which is these cosy, blue pouch bags for all of the creatures who either lost their parents or were injured in the horrible blaze is our small act of kindness. We hope the pouch bags help and that the wildlife who take comfort in them feel safe and secure.

Please little creatures we hope you all find the happiness you had before the fire took it all away.

Love from the Female Detainees of Rangeview Remand Centre
The reparation projects have provided detainees with an ongoing positive profile.

Recognition of the students contribution to the community through a letter or a comment is very important.

It is almost like the acceptance of an unspoken apology.
The word **reparation** is one that has to be taught.

As one young man who is a leader of the “Gift Stick” project says, “People on the outside can see we have some good in us... we make an effort. We can make a choice to give something back. They can see that we can do good when we are on the outside. During these projects we help the younger boys to learn to be better.”
Government of Western Australia
Department of Corrective Services

Request from Indigenous people at Centrelink
GIFT STICKS
Curtin University Short Film