



Salvation Army Westcare Continuing Care evaluation

Collaborative youth participation practice
with young people and leaving care
services

The Continuing Care program

- **‘Leaving care’ and ‘Continuing Care’**
- **Better planning**
- **Improving engagement**
- **Continued support from known providers**

Approaching the evaluation

The Monash University team aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Continuing Care program in improving outcomes for young people by the end of the 3-year funded period of the program.

The evaluation examined the impact of the support provided on:

- minimising and/or preventing unplanned exits from care;
- improving young people's skills, resources and supports;
- assisting young people to access housing, education, training and employment;
- preventing young people in the program from involvement with housing crises, the criminal justice system, and mental health and alcohol and other drug services.



Continuing care and youth participation

- **Participation and engagement**
- **Continuing Care support improving engagement**

Continuing care and youth participation

- **The Youth Group Advocates (TYGA)'s work starting out**
- **Key consultants on what works**

Continuing care and extending care

- **The Westcare Continuing Care program and other similar earlier programs (e.g. Berry Street's Stand by Me) have provided the evidence base for the recent introduction of extended care programs in Victoria and elsewhere.**
- **They demonstrate the value of providing ongoing supports till at least 21 years in key areas such as housing, health care, social relationships, education and employment to optimize opportunities and outcomes for young people transitioning from care.**

Questions?

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