Youthlaw's

Legal Pod Program

Summary of Evaluation Findings

Legal pods are composed of pro-bono private lawyers providing legal advice and support to young people leaving care for upto 3 years

20

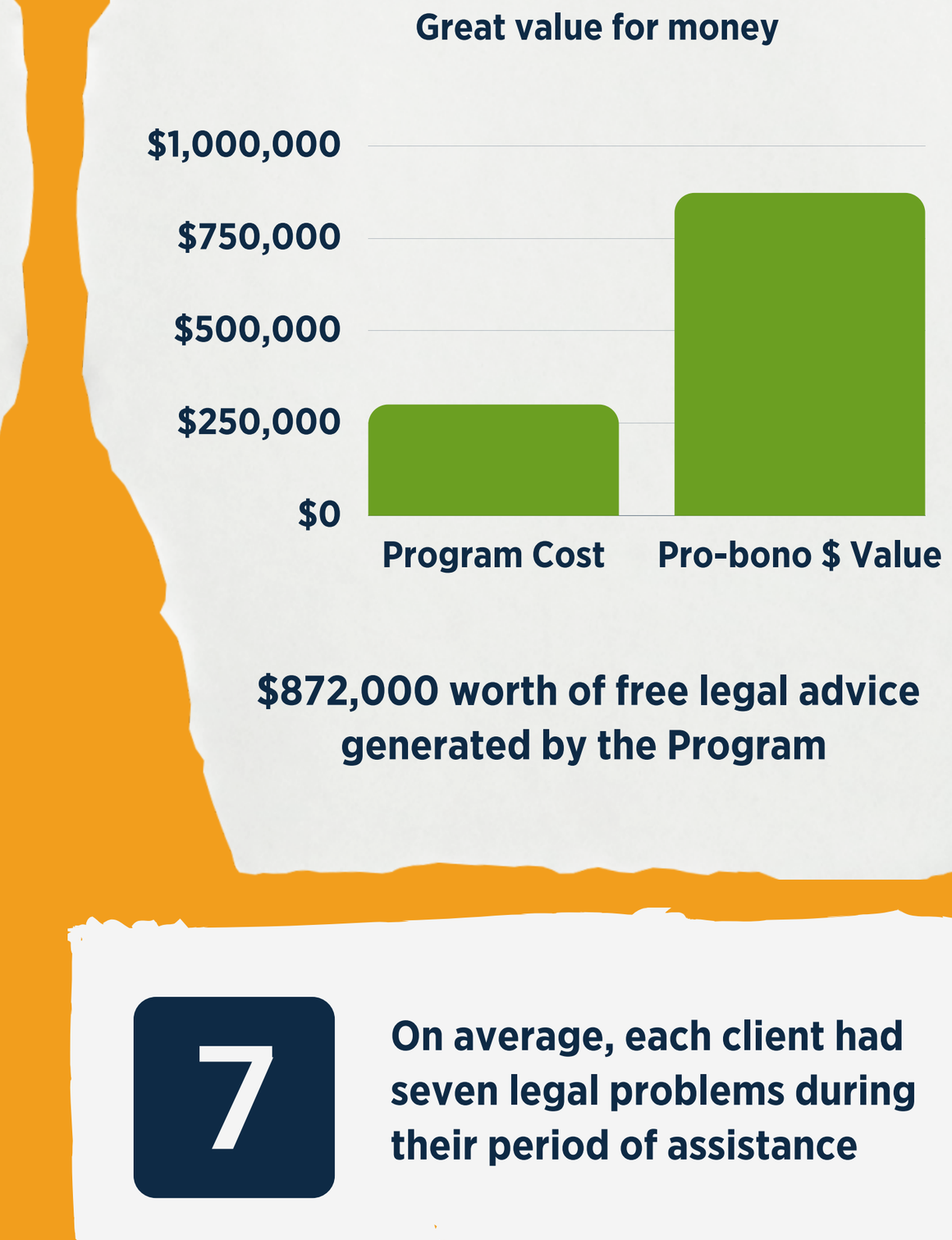
20 care leavers provided ongoing legal support through the Program - additional care leavers supported with one-off advice

49 lawyers, from 9 major Melbourne law firms involved in pods of 2-4 lawyers

2033 hours of advice and assistance provided on 163 separate legal matters

$52,000 worth of debts/fines waived or withdrawn for 9 young people

$74,000 of fines/debts in negotiation for 7 young people



$872,000 worth of free legal advice generated by the Program

85%

17 out of 20 of the young people remained in contact with their legal pod lawyer over the course of the program

7

On average, each client had seven legal problems during their period of assistance

Most common legal issues faced by young people were fines and debts (93 of the 163 legal matters)

Other common matters related to - victims of crime, personal injury, welfare entitlements, tenancy and civic responsibilities

Achieved outcomes include debt resolution, diversion of criminal conviction and obtaining care records

Young care leavers gained improved understanding of their legal rights

The young people and lawyers felt they had built strong trusted relationships

The lawyers observed improved confidence and reduced stress of their clients as a result of the engagement

Success factors

Legal advice that is ongoing and holistic supports building of trust overtime

High quality and value of using volunteers from the private sector to support human service outcomes

Youthlaw specialist (OOHC) expertise used to inform and support lawyers

Active engagement of law firms as a way to support positive social outcomes through fulfil of their pro bono commitments

Find out more about Youthlaw
https://youthlaw.asn.au/

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Evaluation prepared by OPEN, at the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare -
www.outcomes.org.au

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