

Youth Transitional Programme

Dear Chris,

Here is some feedback from the YTP team regarding the Experiential Approaches with Challenging Adolescents workshop with Project Adventure New Zealand at Te Rama Ora (Te Whetu Tawera – Auckland City Hospital), on 3rd & 4th October, 2006.

YTP (The Youth Transitional Programme), is a 5 day per week educational/vocational day programme for young people 13- 18, who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health issues and who are engaged as clients of Kari Centre (Auckland District Health Board's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service). We usually cater for 8 young people per school term and aim to provide them with the skills, structure and support required to either re-engage in secondary school or vocational training, work experience, part time or full time work.

In addition to the education/vocation focus, we provide practical skills, focussed learning opportunities in the areas of communication, self assessment and mood management; an adventure programme and life skills activities such as shared lunch and creative group.

Feedback re both workshop facilitation and content was extremely positive! Some of the comments:

"Enormously relevant to YTP's work. It has challenged me to keep thinking about what we deliver and how we do it."

"An interesting range from theory to practical tools for effective facilitation. It was really inspiring to see the facilitator's passion for passing on this valuable information. I enjoyed anecdotes of working with clients – excellent style – relaxed but well thought out."

"Well prepared and tailored to our setting. Well paced, interactive and a good mix of learning and doing."

"Content well pitched to what we'd stated our issues, needs and questions were prior to the course."

"Facilitation and presentation of a high standard."

"Clear and helped provide direction in respect of focus of work and aims for future development. Facilitation was tailored to need and remained flexible throughout."

"Encouraging and breeds enthusiasm for the work we do, amongst staff."

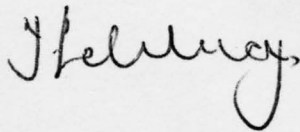
Since we started introducing the experiential learning model and integrating the learning from this and other PANZ course training into our programme, there has been a noticeable change in the engagement of the young people in group process. The adult to adult approach taught has allowed an improvement in staff client relationships

as it has facilitated change in the way we respond to challenging behaviour as a team and greater consistency.

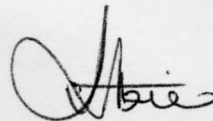
There is a clear ability to integrate the use of sound mental health therapeutic models within the experiential learning process, so there is a huge potential impact for change for the young people. This represents an on-going challenge for us as we seek to develop our programme.

We would thoroughly recommend this training to other teams working with young people recovering from mental health issues.

Regards.



Tim Holdaway
YTP Coordinator.



Kushla Trinder
Clinical Team Member.