

The Community Reintegration Program (CRP)

Literacy in a community setting

The Homelessness & Drug-Dependency Program (HDDP)



A joint initiative of The Salvation Army + Hanover Welfare Services +
The Society of St Vincent de Paul + The Department of Human Services, Victoria

CRP – who are we?

The Homelessness & Drug Dependency Program (HDDP) =
Drug & alcohol teams at Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation Centre,
Hanover Southbank, and Ozanam House (incl. Quin House)

... HDDP provides long term, flexible casework centred on
housing, drug-issues, mental health, legal issues

+

... CRP offers a safe, positive, substance-free space for exploring
sustainable life options and building community links

Who are our community?

A typical participant profile (misleading as that can be) includes:

- Drug-use issues
- Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Low level education
- High rates mental illness
- High rates poor physical health
- Significant legal issues pending
- Significant imprisonment history



So how do we work?

Building community @ CRP

- encouraging a culture that is 'safe', peer-supportive, reciprocating, valuing, forward-looking, creative, hopeful
- developing inclusiveness to counter the expectation of exclusion
- being open and respectful of the wishes of individuals to engage at the level, to the extent, in the manner, within the goals of their choosing
- conceiving CRP as 'the learning environment'

So how do we work?

Forging connections, connectivity & connectedness

Bridging into the broader community through:

- imagining different futures
- examining barriers and ways forward
- exploring resources and pathways

How does literacy fit in?

Within the context of our broader aims we attempt to provide literacy and numeracy support that is relevant, contextualized, timely, sometimes explicit, sometimes embedded.

So what is different about CRP?

- Literacy and numeracy not primary focus
- Unsustainable lifestyles
- Breakdown of housing and basic relationships
- Interrupted and incomplete educations
- Literacy plays an important role in thinking of and planning for different futures.

What are the elements that make it work?

- Skilled staff with dual qualifications
- Time
- Flexibility
- Partnerships
- Ongoing funding

What are the challenges?

- Isolation
- Limited opportunities for collegial support
- Need for resources to trial ideas in varied settings
- Need for trials to be done in conjunction with research
- Support of Government and funding organisations

In conclusion

- An approach that acknowledges and understands specific community contexts
- Embeds literacy and numeracy
- Sound and sustainable model
- Bypasses the debilitating deficit focus that can be difficult to avoid in a single focus program setting.