

new Transitions

High for Me

High for Me

By Sharaya Bond

When I first started high school it was harder than I expected. The first high school I attended was Salisbury East, which is in Adelaide. The first semester was hard to settle in. The schoolwork was harder than primary and I was ashamed to raise my hand. I thought the other kids would laugh and might think that I'm dumb because the primary school was learning at your own pace. I felt I hadn't learnt enough to be at this new school.

The students at this school were snobby rich kids who thought they were 'all that'!

My Aboriginal counsellor was good at first and helped me settle in, but then I started slacking off at school and she would hassle me to come to school and would say things like, 'Your grades are low'. I told her the reason why I was missing school was because my Mum had an accident and had hurt her leg. My counsellor told me that wasn't a good enough reason.

Mum healed up and I started coming back to school, but I was behind in all my schoolwork and I would ask the teacher if I could do extra work at lunchtime, but he rejected the idea and said it was my fault for missing out on school. My home grade teacher was also my SOSE teacher and that was about the only class I passed, which was very good.

Later that year I had trouble with a student who was being very racist towards me. He was calling me racist names, but I wouldn't do it and tell the teachers, so I gave it back to him. It started to get very serious so then I decided to tell the teacher. When I told him he told me not to worry about it and to sit back down. Feeling really angry I reacted and cracked. I started to yell and be very aggressive, I grabbed my stuff so I could go and talk to my Aboriginal counsellor. She was at a meeting so I caught the bus and



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wagged school for the whole day.

When I first came to Southside I was nervous and thought I would be the only indigenous girl, but when I went to my first class I saw two other girls and I felt comfortable. My big sister came to this school, but has graduated. The youth workers are very helpful and have helped me through my problems at home and at school which has helped a lot to keep my head up at some points. I felt useless because of all the stuff that was happening and didn't want to come to school anymore. I started slacking off class and getting very bad grades, but then, with their support I snapped out of it and started to catch up, which was a relief to all the teachers, and me!

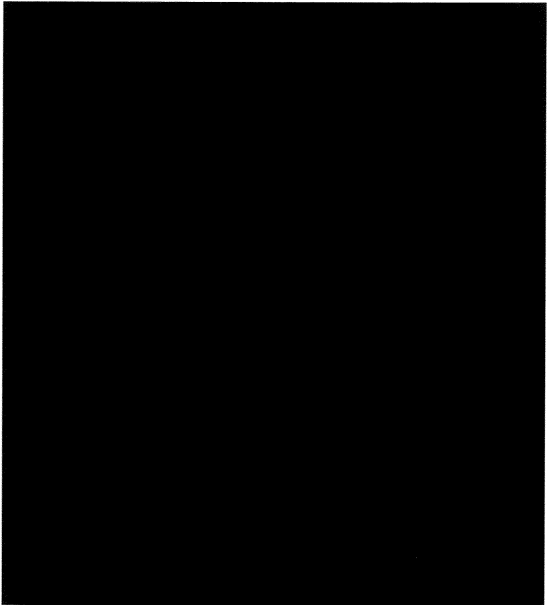
Now that I am at Southside, I feel I can do anything and can be whatever I want if I just put my head down. I'm so glad that I am at this school and I just want Colleen and Lorraine to know that there is no better school and thank you for being there for me and my family.

* The *Re-engage This!* multimedia competition was open to young Queenslanders aged between 12 and 25 years. This is one of 6 entries (the winners) that were chosen for publication.

Re-engage This! (Short movie)

TUESDAY, 06 MAY 2008

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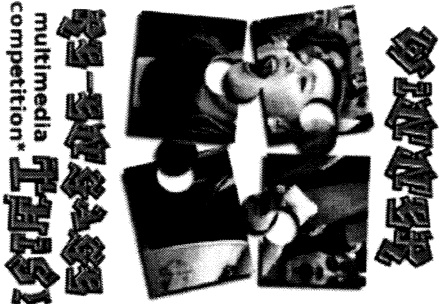
Adult Prison is no place for 17 year olds.

Queensland is the only state in Australia that continues to lock up children in Adult prisons.

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By Shannon Yeatman, Eboni Pydde, Nathan Sutton, Mitchell Williams, Dylan Makings, Teigan Wright, Katie Marrapodi, Michael Pearce, Kacee Manning, Jess Forsyth, Loki Jukes, Maggie Bright, Mikaela Fenner and Nathan Smith.

NB: Due to copyright restrictions we are unable to broadcast the soundtrack that accompanies this short movie.



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new Transitions

Last Year in Year 8

Re-engagement Edition May 2008

Last Year in Year 8

By Norma Fisher

When I started High School it was hard but I did go to every class. Then when I met other girls I was not doing well because I was following them and not going to class, but I did go to some classes. My family had some really sad things happen as well.



**multimedia
competition***

By the end of the Term 3, I was doing better and not following the other girls. I now get on with my work and don't fight with other girls. My Sister Myisha and my Cousin Sammy Jo tried their hardest to get me to class but they were a bit too rough. Still I should have listened to them.

Even though I didn't go to all my classes, my school let me play touch football and netball at night, and do the cultural dancing. They never stopped me from doing the things I really like. This helped me a lot.

My sister Myisha has attended Southside for three years and is now studying a certificate in Youth Work at the school. This will be a great opportunity for Myisha and our family. She has a little boy called Jayden who goes to the school crèche.

If I ever have to go to another school I know I will be always welcome back here at this good school where we get help from good teachers. It's just that when I was growled at by my family, at school, I I didn't like it.

This year I am going to try hard because all the teachers here say I will then do very well.

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new Transitions

Title

Re-engagement Edition May 2008

Pregnant...

By Nadia Horvath

When I found out I was pregnant, I was so sad and very scared. I didn't want to have this baby. I didn't think I was ready to be a mum. All I could do was cry. Then all I could do was be angry with my partner. I screamed and yelled abuse at him.

Then I apologised. I started to talk to him about how I felt.

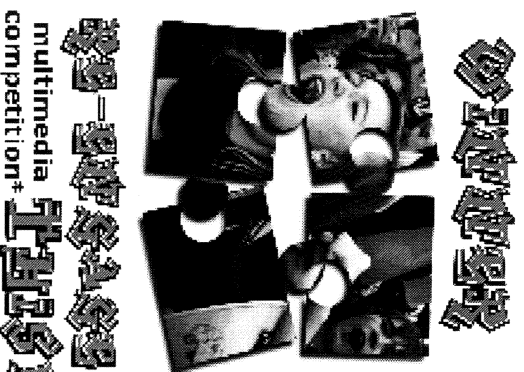
We both broke down and cried. I went for my first ultrasound a few days later. I saw our baby's tiny heart beat up on the screen. That was all I needed. How could I be so selfish? Now that there is a life growing inside, I had to be better and fit for it, physically, emotionally and mentally.

I came back to school, started to eat healthy and exercise regularly. Then and only then inside I felt proud of the things I had achieved. Each day as our baby grows, I get more and more excited. I can start to feel it moving and sometimes it gets annoying but I suppose it's all part of the package.

My partner and I are looking for the perfect home to bring up our child. We both can't wait till we're parents. When we go out, everywhere we look there are couples and mums and grandparents with babies, and inside I just melt.

In a way, I'm glad that this baby unexpectedly came along. I feel like a better person. And I am grateful that I have the love and support from my family, friends, teachers and school.

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new Transitions

Reflections - 2005

Re-engagement Edition May 2008

Reflections - 2005

By Benita Terranecciaro

Not having a family home to go to at night it makes it hard to focus on study. Being in care and protection makes life extra hard.

I have to wait several weeks before I can speak to someone – let alone get any help.

It would be great if my family service officer (F.S.O.) was available when I needed help.

I have asked for access to my files 6 weeks ago, but I have had no response about this matter either.

In 2002 I got very ill and most of the time I wished that I could be taken away, with no one really there for me when I really needed someone.

I will be leaving care in less than a year and so far no one is helping me to prepare.

I am worried about this.

It seems to me that the government needs to put more money into helping children and young adults.

There are so many government departments and so many wealthy politicians around; yet many young people are living on the streets with no help from anyone.

The good thing about Southside Education is that young adults are treated with respect and people really care about everyone in the school.



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multimedia **Transition**
competition*

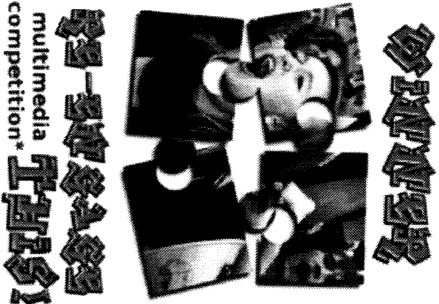
* The *Re-engage This!* multimedia competition was open to young Queenslanders aged between 12 and 25 years. This is one of 5 entries (the winners) that were chosen for publication.

Hard Love Vol. 1

FRIDAY, 02 MAY 2008

by Daniel Surgeon

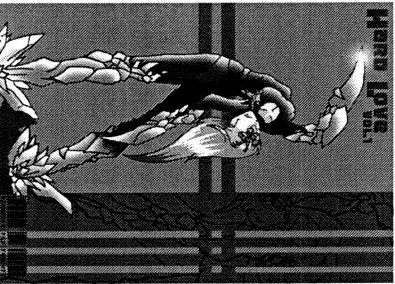
(click the image to the right for full size view)



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This is a mock comic book cover. Daniel explains that the image "represents how young people can break free from the 'diamond hard' casing of adult sheltering."

Click the image below to view the full size.



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