STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS
BUILDING A RESTORATIVE CITY IN NEWCASTLE

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WHAT ARE RESTORATIVE CITIES?
ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

RELATIONSHIPS
- Dealing with conflicts in ways that repair harm
- Between and amongst organisations and individuals

RESPONSEIBILITY
- Use of restorative models that can be used informally in everyday situations that address concerns, empower change, and maximise personal responsibility
- Conferencing assists wrongdoers to understand the harm they caused, and engages them in meaningful activities to pay back the community

RESPECT
- Involving others in decisions that affect them
- Active listening
- Empathy
THE BEGINNING OF OUR RESTORATIVE JOURNEY

Why Newcastle?
- Need for **social** and **cultural renewal**
- Urban renewal
- Demographics - **youth**
- Moderate size, availability of services, **potential for expansion** on regional basis.
“We need a shared vision and strategy for building a restorative community - a bold vision, which is owned by everyone. The vision needs to be understood by all, and clearly communicated with strong leadership.”

—MARK FINNIS, Restorative Practice Consultant, on building restorative cities and communities
Key learnings...

- Critical mass – enthusiasm and collaboration - ownership
- Can’t just transplant
- Stories are important – symbolism and meaning – a cultural and adaptive fit
- Evaluate – publicise and embed
- Organisational support
First steps

• Involvement and support from local professionals through advisory committee membership

• So far, our advisory committee consists of:
  ▪ University members from various faculties including law, social work, CEHEE and education
  ▪ Local police
  ▪ Judicial officers
  ▪ School executives
  ▪ Indigenous representatives
  ▪ Community sector
  ▪ Child welfare sector
A GRASSROOTS APPROACH

• Newcastle Law School as facilitator of widespread restorative practice, by:
  • helping organisations build on their already fantastic work;
  • mapping restorative approaches to conflict resolution across various sectors and institutions in Newcastle;
  • implementing a program of workshops and other support mechanisms for implementing and/or extending restorative practices across these sectors and institutions;
  • bring together school educators, judges, police, community support agencies, and health professionals frequently to plan the roll out of connected and cohesive restorative approaches
GIANTS

Three case studies
CASE STUDY 1:
The Restore Hamilton South Project
Who?
• Collaborative effort led by Newcastle Police, along with NSW Housing, Family & Community Services, Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, Corrective Services and Newcastle City Council

What?
• Hamilton South housing estate: 1% of city’s population but 6% of city’s crime
• Numerous welfare concerns:
  • Child protection
  • General & mental health
  • Family dysfunction
  • Substance abuse
  • Poor education & employment prospects

How?
• Place policing – looking at the broad range of criminal and antisocial behaviour in a concentrated area
• Leading police have detailed knowledge of residents which is supplemented by NSW Housing information
• Integrated effort by services involved – regular meetings and knowledge sharing between agencies

Results
• At least 15% reduction in violent & antisocial behaviour
• Fewer calls to police
• Housing now spending money on “maintenance and improvement” rather than maintenance and repairs
• Residents feeling confident to speak about and report drug issues etc
CASE STUDY 2: Hunter Drug Court

Judge Cloran
Who?
- One of three Drug Courts in NSW
- Problem solving courts – take referrals from District and Local Courts of drug dependent, non-violent offenders

What?
- Mandate to deliver an overall benefit to the community of NSW
- Reducing the risk of reoffending by drug dependent people

How?
- Drug Court team oversees progress of participants throughout the program & jointly facilitates strategies to assist rehabilitation for the participant
  - Team includes: DPP & Legal Aid solicitors, police representative, clinical nurse consultant, Community Corrections Division coordinator, court Registrar & the Judge.
- Nurse-led clinic focuses on holistic care of participants to care for “the complete person – physically, psychologically, socially and spiritually in the management and prevention of disease.”

Results
- 2016: 16 graduations from a record number of 38 ‘non-custodial completions’
CASE STUDY 3:
VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE LEAGUE
**Who?**
- VOCAL operates in Newcastle and the Hunter, and Sydney
- Funded by Department of Justice (Victims Services)

**What?**
- A unique organisation in NSW
- Trauma-specific service that directly addresses trauma and its effects

**How?**
- Through the trauma informed principles of establishing safety, trust, choice, collaboration and empowerment, staff provide information, education and practical strategies to help reduce traumatic reactions and behaviours.
- Organise and promote Victim-Offender conferencing through Department of Corrective Services, promoting the victim’s voice and needs
- This process respects the victims and has their needs as central to what happens.
First, and at the most basic level, technology can assist to inform, support and advise people involved in justice activities. Platforms, ‘joining up’, resources – remote and regional.

Technology can replace functions and activities that were previously carried out by humans. Apps – counselling, know the law (with a restorative bent), Bernie (launched today).

Technology can change that way that determinative, advisory and facilitative processes work and inform system reform through the use of big data sets and more complex knowledge generation, AI and analytics. May make social innovation more important.
NEXT STEPS FOR NEWCASTLE
NEWCASTLE AS A RESTORATIVE CITY: A SYMPOSIUM
Justice | Community | Education | Health
14-15 June 2018

Register your interest today:
https://goo.gl/Am3tjT
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LONGER TERM PLAN: ESTABLISHING A CENTRE

The Newcastle Centre for Restorative Practices

• Plan to model this centre on the Hull Centre for Restorative Practice in the United Kingdom, established approximately 10 years ago.

• A project officer will be involved in extensively mapping restorative approaches to conflict resolution across various sectors and institutions in Newcastle
  • then implementing a program of workshops and other support mechanisms for implementing and/or extending restorative practices across these sectors and institutions.

• The project officer will be supported by existing members of the project’s steering and advisory committees, who represent community, education, health, policing and legal sectors.
THANK YOU