

POSITIVE AGEING ARTICLE

Outcare Inc

Outcare is a unique community based organisation that provides crime prevention services and rehabilitation supports for offenders, ex-offenders, and their families. It operates from many locations in and around the Metropolitan area.

In the West Perth office Outcare works mostly with offenders, ex-offenders both pre and post release of prison in order to support a positive and successful return to the community.

The major service areas located in Perth are the Community Support Services, Accommodation Services, Employment Services, St John of God's Women's Project, Aboriginal Intensive Transition Support services and the Addictions Counselling Services.

Outcare also works from six prison locations (Canning Vale, Casuarina, Karnet, Bandyup & Nyandi Women's Prisons and Woorloo & Karnet Prison farms). At these locations Outcare provides family and welfare support to visitors to the prisons

Outcare has specialised in work with offenders for nearly 40 years and is recognised as both a professional and a specialist service provider. The organisation has strong links to both the community and business sector.

The organisation is professionally run and has an established plan and vision for its future. It is a relatively large community based organisation, operating with a staff of nearly 60 people, the equivalent of approximately 45 full time positions.

It is a widely recognised organisation that has networks across many sectors that are of immense use and benefit its clients. Many government and non-government organisations, including the private business sector, use the services of the organisation.

The overall service list includes financial counselling, emergency relief / material aid, general counselling, employment and training, addictions counselling, Noongar case management services, the Outcare Business Register, liaison and advocacy with government departments, accommodation, information and referral, legal education, children's programs, developmental programs for women, community education, training of government and non government staff, Christmas program, pre release services and so on

Outcare has additional qualities in that it provides a crime prevention function that has an impact far wider than an economic one; it is a leader in a national network of organisations and individuals involved in this area, is a leader in policy issues relating to this area and provides a holistic range of services, well integrated and managed.

In recognition of its valuable work, in 2001 Outcare won the prestigious Gold Swan Award as Community Organisation Citizen of the Year.

Volunteers are considered a valuable asset to the organisation and the roles one can play are many and varied, ranging through basic clerical activities, childcare, welfare support, maintenance, policy work and so on. Outcare endeavours to always match the volunteer with what they want to do so that they get satisfaction from their volunteering activity.

If you feel you might have something to offer and you are interested in helping in this field you can ring Outcare on 92260088. An information package will be sent out to you and you will be offered an opportunity to look at the organisation before making any commitment.

Outcare contact details

1070 Hay Street, West Perth, 6005

Executive Director: Peter Sirr, Mob 0417 932384

Phone: 92260088

Fax: 92260099

Email: outcare@outcare.com.au

URL: www.outcare.com.au