



TOM'S STORY

Tom was only 19 when he left prison after 9 months in custody, and almost immediately he reconnected with old peer groups and fell into the problematic drug use that had been part of his life for a number of years. His drug use had led him to juvenile detention in younger years, and it was drug and stealing offences that had put him in prison this time. The relapse led him back to prison for a few more months, but after that, he began an intensive supervision order and was mandated to connect with treatment around his drug use.

Tom identified that growing up in an unstable environment with his mother, and exposure to her drug use and offending had been a factor in his own drug use. It had resulted in him developing a history of using violence and struggling to manage his anger when faced with conflict, but since being released from prison he worked hard with therapeutic supports to build strategies to understand and manage his anger.



ELLIE'S STORY

Ellie* was an 18yr old young parent with a 6-month old son Bobby*.

Ellie had been in and out of foster care since the age of 6, had a history of childhood trauma and no positive relationships or family support. Ellie had completed a year 10 level of education and previous retail work experience but was unable to further her studies due to falling pregnant at age 17 to Bobby's father.

Ellie was in a domestic violence relationship with Bobby's Father and ongoing incidents led to the Department of Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) involvement and Bobby was temporarily removed from her care. Bobby was returned to Ellie's care with a CPFS supervision order and conditions required to keep Bobby safe. Ellie moved between several transitional housing services and refuges because her violent ex-partner has a habit of tracking her down.

Along with experiencing ongoing homelessness and domestic violence, Ellie also identified struggling with anxiety, self-confidence and health issues.



DANIEL'S STORY

Daniel* was struggling to keep things going at high school. What the other students at school probably didn't know was that conflict with an emotionally abusive family had escalated and he was kicked out of home. The lack of stable housing was having serious impacts on his mental health. As a result, he was bouncing from crisis accommodation to mental health institutions and back again.

As a response to significant stresses in his life, Daniel had a history of self-harm and suicidal thoughts. When he turned 16 he made a serious attempt on his own life, and spent 3 months in hospital. Despite everything going on, Daniel maintained a strong focus on completing his high school education and the hope of eventually finding his own place, but that didn't look realistic from a bed in the Adolescent Unit.



JASON'S STORY

At 16, Jason had become homeless because of domestic and family violence, and the growing impact of his mother's boyfriend's drug and alcohol use and mental health issues. Jason told of significant ongoing conflict and violence at his mother's house and said that he had been physically assaulted by his mother's boyfriend and had his property destroyed on several occasions. Jason reported that his relationship with his mother was severely strained, and that she was unable to support him due to prioritising her partners needs above her own and those of her son.

Jason's biological father was also not a suitable replacement, with violence so much a part of his life that a restraining order needed to be in place.

Jason suffered a serious stroke when he was 6, which resulted in him being hospitalised for over a year and needing rehabilitation in order to learn how to walk again. The stroke left Jason with permanent mobility impairment on his left side, though this did not impair his capacity to participate in sport or physical activity. His recovery period also resulted in him missing significant periods of primary school and subsequently Jason found it difficult to form friendships upon returning to school. He described being bullied and ostracised by his peers throughout his primary and secondary schooling due to his mobility issues. Jason was studying year 11 at a mainstream high school, though was having trouble keeping up with his schoolwork and had ongoing conflict with staff and other students at the school.