



### **1. What is the Youth Information Room?**

The Youth Information Room is a student support service. It provides a safe place for students to go when they are facing issues that impact on their wellbeing. It's also a fun place to drop in for a social chat, playing games or having something to eat.

Established in 2006 by Andre Brown who discovered the idea in Melbourne, the Youth Information Room initially ran separately from the school, under Andre's company, Youth Innovations; she hired 2 workers to help her. St Paul's took over the administration of the Youth Information Room in 2002, and hired Youth Workers Rosaria Irranca and Jo Ashcroft, who are still on staff in a part-time capacity. Other current staff members include Youth Worker, Gill Smith and New Arrivals Coordinator, Kath Liddle.

### **2. Why does the Youth Information Room exist?**

With growing social issues are impacting on youth, St Paul's is mindful that the emotional well-being of students affects the success of their educational experience. The Youth Information Room provides support services for all students and their families, as well as staff. Our Youth workers provide guidance and assistance and ensure that students have a sounding board, someone to talk to, and someone to back them when all is not well.

In the Youth Information Room, we believe that is important that students have adults in their life who have no expectations of them other than to be themselves. We do not expect homework to be done, grades to be good, or behaviour to be managed. All we ask is that students simply respect us and the Room.

### **3. What programs and services does the Youth Information Room offer?**

- Student support:
  - Counselling
  - Mediation
  - Educational expectations
  - Electronic development / Communication and technology
  - Relationship issues
  - Advocacy
  - Family problems
  - Loss and grief
  - Learning difficulties
  - Self harm
  - Mental health
  - Driving
  - Peer relationships
  - Parent counselling
  - New arrival issues
  - Recess and lunch time drop in
  - Career options.

- Group work:
  - Drugs and alcohol
  - Harassment
  - Sexual health
  - Anger management
  - Callan Connection
  - ALOP
  - Breakfast club
  - Leadership training
  - Youth newsletter
  - Youth Advisory Team
  - College Captain and SRC facilitation.
  
- Staff support:
  - Debriefing
  - Counselling
  - Mediation
  - Harassment officers.
  
- Report writing:
  - School newsletter
  - Staff bulletin
  - Mandatory notifications.