



Impact Report

Organisation name

The Venny Inc

Your name and position

Debby Maziarz, Business Development Manager

Please tell us a short story about someone who has benefited from this funding.

Jonathon (not his real name) has been attending the Boys Group on a Friday night for 3 years. He also attends drop in sessions at The Venny every other day we are open. Jonathan is always at The Venny. His home life is really hard, being the youngest sibling and only boy. There is a long history of substance abuse in his family. When we asked Jonathon what the program means to him, this is what he said:

"attending the boys group program gives me time away from my older sisters and time where I can have fun with other boys. I also like the dinners'.

From our perspective, this program provides a consistent safe place where Jonathon can leave a life of being the youngest sibling and only boy for sustained periods of time every week. He gets to hang out with his friends and engage in physical activity to help regulate his strong feelings and emotions which can sometimes escalate into a physical or emotional outburst. He receives attention and support from positive healthy role models.

Please describe the impact that the specific TFN funding has had.

TFN funding allowed for the creation and implementation of new role in recognition that we needed to engage someone with specialist skills and experience to work with this cohort of boys. The investment has strengthened the program overall and provided opportunities for one- to one support and group work with boys who struggle with their identity and emotions. It has also strengthened the leadership capacity in our organisation.

Please provide a quantitative breakdown of how TFN funds have been used

Funding was used to support the engagement of a Youth Development Worker, one to one mentoring support for program participants, a contribution to evaluation and specialist supervision support for staff running the program.

Describe any ways the funding was used that differs from that described your original pitch

Funding allocation has not differed from the original pitch.

How many people have been affected by programs or activities that were supported with TFN funding?

Up to 50 boys aged 8 - 16 years attend the Boys Group and Owing Anger activities each week.

What measures did you use to assess the impact?

We are currently working alongside an external evaluator Incus Group to develop a social impact framework for our organisation, which will be supported by a theory of change. This will enable us to better identify and capture data to support evidence of our impact in the future. To assess the impact of Owing Anger we used the following measures:

- attendance of boys (measured through logs)
- feedback from boys about the benefits/impacts of the program (data collected through interviews with participants at the beginning and end of each term)
- feedback from staff about the benefits/impacts of the program (data collected in care team meetings and reflection activities)

Describe three ways that your organisation has changed in the last 12 months since the event

1. The engagement of a specialist Youth Development Worker role which supported an organisation wide restructure, a clarification of roles and responsibilities and strengthened organisation leadership
2. Increased funding support from local government and philanthropic organisations and the launch of two new programs
3. The implementation of an organisation wide evaluation framework

Over the last 12 months, did you receive any additional financial support from anyone you met through TFN?

Yes

How much and from whom?

Jack Brockhoff Foundation - \$25,000 for a project entitled Feet on the Ground

Over the last 12 months, did you receive any goods in-kind and/or pro-bono services from anyone you met through TFN?

Yes, pro-bono services

What did you receive and from whom?

Wendy Brooks & Partners - Fundraising Strategy Consultation

How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives this year?

We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding

Has the TFN pitch coaching and mentoring helped you successfully secure funding from other sources you did not meet through TFN?

Yes

How much and from whom?

Since the TFN event, The Venny has secured \$350,000 from local government and a further \$75,000 from philanthropic trusts and foundations for special programs and interventions.

What were some of the other benefits of participating in TFN?

The TFN experience was a game changer for The Venny. Before this we received 80% of funding from one source, posing great risk for the sustainability of the organisation. The TFN experience encouraged us to find our voice and tell the world about the great work we do and why we need more resources and support. I think the TFN experience gave us confidence. We now have increased and diversified income, leadership capability, confidence, a handful of donors who want to help us and a great program that we are evaluating so that we have evidence to back up our claims.

Do you have any other comments or feedback on the TFN experience or funding process?

Keep offering this opportunity to other organisations! The built in multiplier effect of the TFN model is unique and valuable to the not the profit sector.