

A Brief History of Boys' Town

Fr Thomas Dunlea (1894-1970) founded Boys' Town at Engadine in 1939. His immediate source of inspiration was the movie about Fr Edward Flanagan (1886-1948) who founded the original Boys' Town in 1917 at Omaha, Nebraska, USA. Both Fr Flanagan and Fr Dunlea drew inspiration from St John Bosco (1815-1888), whose work with disadvantaged youth began in Turin, Italy, but has since spread worldwide.

St John Bosco is the Founder of the Salesian Society of Priests and Brothers who, since 1952, have been responsible for the work at Boys' Town.

Boys' Town has undergone many changes over time as it has continued to respond to changes in society and the emerging needs of youth and families. Today it operates effectively providing a comprehensive service to adolescent boys and their families who are at risk of family breakdown, but who want to restore their relationships.



Mural above entrance, created and painted by old students of Boys' Town

To Contact Us

If you have any queries, or would like further information, please -

- * Call us on the number below. Our Administration Staff will help you with your enquiries.
- * Access our Website listed below.

Phone

(02) 9520 8555

Fax

(02) 9520 6714

E-mail address

admin@boystown.net.au

Website

www.boystown.net.au

Boys' Town Engadine

**35A Waratah Road
PO Box 99
ENGADINE NSW 2233**

BOYS' TOWN

FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES



**BOYS' TOWN
ENGADINE**

*Auspiced by the Salesians of Don Bosco
Trustees of Boys' Town Engadine NSW*

The Purpose of Boys' Town

The purpose of Boys' Town is to assist you and your son to sort out any problems and get along better, so you can reach your goal of Family Preservation.

How the Program Works

Boys' Town is a residential, out of home care Agency, working with boys and their families. We concentrate primarily on Family Preservation, which means that if the bond has broken down between family members and the boy, we work on rebuilding the bond through family therapy - including counselling sessions on a weekly basis for the boy, and the parents/carers must commit to attending counselling sessions at Boys' Town fortnightly.

We also provide a nurturing, educational program, which helps the boys continue their studies at their individual levels. We also provide valuable life skills experiences, including camps, sporting activities, building their self esteem, anger management, cooking and personal hygiene.

The Program requires the boys to reside at Boys' Town during the week, going home for weekends, public holidays and school holidays for a period of 6 to 12 months depending on family circumstances.

Staff at Boys' Town

There are three independent living and learning centres, each catering for the needs of a maximum of 8 boys. Each centre is staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, consisting of 1 Family Services Worker, 1 Life Skills/Social Educator, 1 Teacher and 2 Residential Care Workers, who work intensively with each boy and his family under the supervision of a Team Manager.

Boys' Town is also a registered special school which provides an innovative educational program, focusing on Individual Educational needs of each boy.

Educational Program

The boys often have trouble fitting into the conventional, mainstream schooling system, and often find Boys' Town's hands-on, more personal teaching structure relevant and involving.

Who is Eligible to Attend Boys' Town?

The Residential Program The program lasts for between 6 to 12 months and is aimed at boys and families who meet the following eligibility criteria:

Boy must be in Years 7 to 10 for schooling, but no older than 14 years and 9 months at enrolment.

Family must reside in Sydney Metropolitan area or Illawarra Region.

Boy must be living in family setting or with long term carers.

Boy and family must voluntarily accept need for assistance with problems and commit to regular counselling sessions.

Boy and family are seeking support in family preservation, often involving help with behaviour management, conduct, parenting skills and other relationship issues.

If you can answer "Yes" to the above, you are welcome to lodge an application for enrolment with Boys' Town.

Boys' Town Does Not Cater for:

- Children with major drug/alcohol problems/addiction or extreme sexualised behaviour.
- Children with major psychiatric conditions.
- Children with physical/intellectual disabilities of a nature that prevents full participation and constructive involvement in the program

The Enrolment Process

Step 1

Enquiries may be made initially by:

- * The Parent/Carer of the boy
- * Department of Community Services
- * School Counsellor
- * An organisation working with the boy and family

Our Administration staff will take a note of who the initial call was from and the boy's name. If the call is from an agency, the parent/carer is then invited to call Boys' Town.

Step 2

The Parent/Carer will then speak to Boys' Town staff who will invite the family and the boy along to a Family Meeting. This involves all the families who have called since the last meeting.

At the meeting, Boys' Town Family Services Manager and Educational Services Manager will:

- Explain how the Boys' Town program works;
- Conduct a tour of one of the Living and Learning Centres;
- Provide the families with the paperwork required to be completed before the enrolment process can commence.

Step 3

When all the paperwork has been received, the Family Services Manager will then organise a Family Assessment Meeting, to establish family goals, discuss the feasibility of entry with the family, and will ensure that the boy is willing to join the program.

Step 4

Depending on the outcome of the assessment, the family meets with the Director of Boys' Town and final details are attended to. An agreed date is made for the boy to start the program.

After the Director's Meeting, the family will spend some time with the team in the designated Living and Learning Centre.