



press clip

SISTER2sister program

FOUR Corners recently aired an episode highlighting the grave need for something to be done about the generational cycle of poverty and domestic violence in the Claymore area. Jessica Brown founded Life Changing Experiences Foundation (LCEF) to tackle these very issues and for the past nine years has dedicated her life to helping teenage girls at risk of neglect and/or physical, sexual or emotional abuse, circumstances of poverty, cultural isolation, disability, exposure to substance abuse among other issues.

Jessica and the SISTER2sister program has helped over 50 girls in the Claymore area to date but are working hard to increase this

number. A non government funded charity, LCEF's main initiative is the SISTER2sister program, a 12 month mentoring program that matches successful corporate and business women with these troubled teenage girls in need of a positive role model.

With proven results, the SISTER2sister program is successful in breaking the cycle of generational poverty, abuse, unemployment and teen pregnancy. Recent focus groups, representing a cross section of graduates from each of the previous year groups, found that with the exception of stay at home mums, all of the girls to undergo the program were working or pursuing further study.

Many were the first in their family to hold down a job and all girls stated that if it wasn't for the SISTER2sister program their lives would have taken a different path, for the worse.

However, with limited funds and no government funding at present (LCEF were part funded from 2005-2007 by FaCSIA), Jessica is limited as to how many girls she can take each year. She has a lengthy waiting list of girls in need in each state as well as a waiting list of women wanting to volunteer as mentors in each state. If you would like to help or would like to find out more call 02 9211 9129 or go to www.lifechangingexperiences.org.

