

Deputy Premier
Minister for Education and Training
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Racing

Level 10 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: +61 3 6165 7754
Email: Jeremy.Rockliff@dpac.tas.gov.au



- 6 SEP 2016

Ms Tanya Cavanagh
Email: tanya@teenchallenge Tasmania.org

Dear Ms Cavanagh

Thank you for your email of 4 August 2016 regarding Teen Challenge's drug education program.

The wellbeing of our young people and the subsequent delivery of quality health and well-being programs aligned to the *Australian Curriculum* within Tasmanian Government schools are ongoing priorities of this government.

I acknowledge the work of organisations such as your own that support young people and communities and the progress you are implementing in communities. The project *#Not Even Once* is commendable, particularly the focus on 'how', 'what' and 'why'.

Congratulations on your work in government schools. The students of Brooks, Kings Meadows, Deloraine and Exeter high schools have been fortunate to have been involved in your program. The reflections quoted in your materials from teachers and students who participated in your program are positive and reassuring.

It is also encouraging to note that your organisation seeks to continue the support provided in school based programs by combining with sporting clubs and community programs. All too often issues related to drug use permeate across a variety of social dimensions. Isolating programs to schools and educational institutions alone can be very restrictive, which is why the Tasmanian Government has announced a *Healthy Tasmania Strategic Plan* including a Student Health Initiative. This initiative will provide support to such issues as drug education and relationships for school students.

Once again, I congratulate you on the *#Not Even Once* project and encourage you to continue your work with high schools across Tasmania.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education and Training