



ARETHUSA COLLEGE

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is James Te Kura and I am the Co ordinator at Arethusa college, a school for disengaged young people. At Arethusa College provide Education and life skills to around 100 young boys. Many of these boys have learning difficulties and behavioural problems that prevent them from fitting into mainstream education facilities, as they can at times be very disruptive and unruly. On the 20th of February 2013 we had Des Bowman as a guest speaker to address two groups of students. Everyone was impacted by his presentation.

The message that Des gave "turns the lights" on for people of all age groups as to why they may have developed violent, substance abusive behaviours that can also contribute to harmful addictions such as gambling etc as well as self harm.

Mr Bowman was recommended to us by former Australian Rugby League International and prison Chaplain for over 17 years in Noel Gallagher, and his words were that Des's presentation was the best he had ever seen.

I personally have worked in with Youth for over 20 years in Detention centres, Education facilities and Community and have to agree with Noel Gallagher that Des's message is extremely relevant and powerful.

I have never before seen these young men sit so still and be so attentive to any other presentation that has been placed in front of them, and there were individuals who openly came forward at the end of each session to thank Des for being so helpful and some who shared experiences they had that led to their now disruptive behaviours.

The presentation was not only helpful to the young boys who were present but to some of the staff and specialist counsellors etc who work with these boys and others, so many people benefit from Des's message. If you wish to contact me to discuss this reference please do so at Arethusa College

Kindest Regards

James Tekura