

BackTrack is a community-based not-for-profit organisation providing disadvantaged youth in regional communities with the support, life skills and experience to pursue positive life pathways.



Support is provided under a flexible and multifaceted model that addresses key domains of risk: education and employment, health and wellbeing, substance use, and crime. The program helps young people build resilience, reconnect with education and training, become work-ready, find jobs, heal from psychological trauma and pursue life pathways that result in meaningful lives and community participation.

BackTrack's youth engagement programs include:

- accredited alternative school education;
- agricultural work experience and employment;
- workshop trade skills and craft;
- residential accommodation; and
- animal behavioural therapy.

Program activities are designed to be relevant to the local community and enable youth to transition into locally relevant employment opportunities.

Over 12 years, BackTrack has worked with over 1,000 youth, with a significant portion (~60%) of program participants being indigenous. 87% of youth graduating from the program are in some form of education or employment and have the skills and resilience to pursue positive life pathways. Many past participants return at a later stage in their life as BackTrack mentors. Additionally, local youth crime rates have fallen by 55%.



Young people in regional communities are often more vulnerable to participating in anti-social behaviour or disengaging from education and employment, and are more at risk of suicide than young people in metro areas.

- Economic disadvantage is higher in rural and regional Australia compared to urban regions.
- Regional residents experience higher rates of housing stress, social disengagement and service exclusion largely due to a lack of access to health support and poorer education outcomes.
- Young people in regional and rural areas are 1.5-1.8x more likely to be at risk of suicide.<sup>1</sup>



## SVA's venture philanthropy approach

SVA's venture philanthropy partnership is focused on supporting BackTrack to sustainably scale, broaden impact, impart learnings to other communities in Australia, and reach a greater number of youth in need.

The replication model which BackTrack has designed and is operating has a significant focus on, and recognition of, the importance of local community ownership and delivery of services, to achieve sustained outcomes. BackTrack's approach in scaling and sharing knowledge is structured under a mentoring program to support regional communities establish their own locally relevant programs to effectively work with local youth.

SVA's support will provide the following over a three year partnership:

 <b>FUNDING</b>	 <b>CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	 <b>NETWORKS</b>	 <b>EVIDENCE</b>
<p>Funding distribution to enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial capacity to underwrite core operations and allocate resources to expansion efforts including an operations manager.</li> <li>Ability to expand residential offering to full capacity.</li> </ul>	<p>Support with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strategic development of a 'centre of excellence' in Armidale showcasing methodologies and sustainably transfer knowledge to other communities.</li> <li>Contribute to the development of a social enterprise model for youth employment.</li> </ul>	<p>Connecting to pro bono partners for support with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Sydney and Melbourne markets to promote program awareness nationally.</li> <li>Legal support for establishment of GTO and community partnerships.</li> </ul>	<p>Support with expanding application and sharing of evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected by BackTrack and University partners.</li> <li>Demonstrating effective delivery and benefits of multifaceted youth support.</li> </ul>

## Why give through SVA?

SVA believes that disadvantage can be reduced if resources are used to do more of what works best, and less of what doesn't.

SVA conducts rigorous screening and due diligence to identify high potential ventures and then actively works with the ventures to improve organisation effectiveness, sustainability, and to develop strong measurement and reporting of their impact.

SVA provides funders with regular progress reports on the ventures' performance and impact being achieved, as well as opportunities to engage with the ventures and learn more about the focus areas being addressed. SVA has Deductible Gift Recipient status with all donations tax deductible.

1. 'Engaging Young People in Regional, Rural and Remote Australia', Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies, April 2015.

## How to get involved

We invite you to support BackTrack and other ventures in the SVA venture philanthropy portfolio.

To find out more about how SVA's venture philanthropy can support your philanthropic journey to deliver real impact in Australia, please contact:



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