



Hobart, TAS

[www.beaconfoundation.net](http://www.beaconfoundation.net)

### Purpose

To influence the attitude and culture of Australians to encourage each young person to develop an independent will to achieve personal success for themselves and their community.

### Rationale for SVA Investment

The youth unemployment rate is an astounding 13 per cent, more than three times higher than the national unemployment rate. Many young people who finish school at Year 10 leave without any real purpose or idea about their future career path. Based on a sample of students entering Beacon's programs at the beginning of Year 10, just under half (46 per cent) of students reported they did not know what they wanted to do with their life, while 18 per cent of students reported that they did not know what they intended to do after Year 10.

*No Dole*, Beacon's primary program, equips students with the skills to identify and access appropriate employment opportunities, further training or education. It provides young people with tools, information, contact with employers and experience in the workplace, building their sense of self-worth and their ability to present themselves positively and confidently.

Beacon believes that young people need to take responsibility for their own future, however tackling youth unemployment should be a shared responsibility with commitments from young people, their school and local businesses.

The Beacon model has a well defined, measurable 'whole of community' intervention program which addresses employment pathways and school-to-work transitions for young people. SVA believes that Beacon's model has huge potential for growth across Australia and for creating systemic change on a major scale.



### Historical Achievement

The school retention rate for schools with the Beacon *No Dole* program is 92 per cent, compared to the national average of 79 per cent. Of those young people who leave school seeking work, the employment rate for *No Dole* schools is 90 per cent compared to the national average of 86 per cent.

### Growth Goals as agreed with SVA

#### Beacon's strategy (2009-2011)

To expand the *No Dole* program across Australia and work toward systemic change in Australian schools to ensure young people transition from school to a positive pathway.

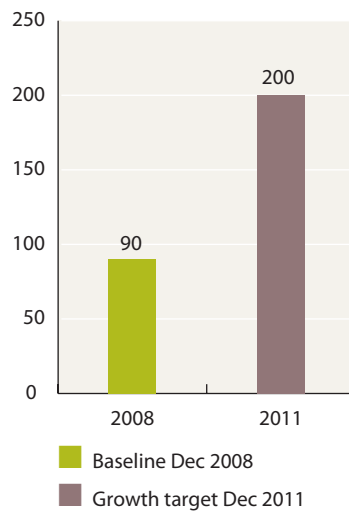
### Goals

1. Extend national presence to 200 schools using Beacon's *No Dole* program.
2. Release high achieving schools into self-supporting 'Platinum' communities, accounting for 25 per cent of total schools using the *No Dole* program.
3. Work toward systemic change by articulating and advocating the policy, practice and funding actions required from government and business to embed *No Dole* principles into all Australian schools.

**Performance Indicators**

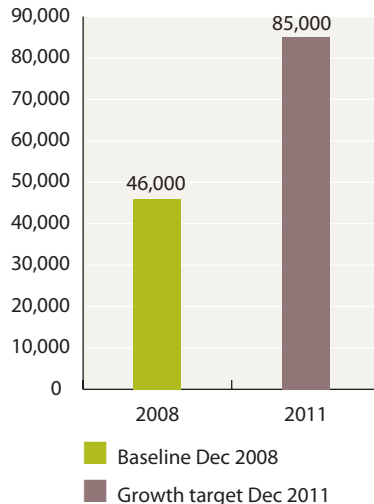
- Aim to launch 'Platinum' communities and have 25 per cent of schools using the *No Dole* program in self-supporting 'Platinum' communities by December 2011.
- Aim to have doubled its reach with an extensive national presence in 200 schools across Australia by December 2011.

**No. of schools using Beacon's *No Dole* program**



- Aim to have a cumulative total of over 85,000 young Australian participants, and prevent an estimated 10,000 young people from moving into unemployment, by December 2011.

**No. of young people participants (cumulative)**



**Venture Team**

**Board members**

- Bill Lawson (Chair & Founder)
- Peter Kirby
- David Jones
- Jim Playsted
- Scott Harris (Chief Executive)
- Mark Cubit

**Scott Harris, Chief Executive**

Scott came to Beacon from a successful sales and management career. He is a former director of an event management company and also currently runs an agency-based business with his wife in Tasmania.

It is in the context of this experience in business and involvement in his local community that Scott believes passionately in a vision of an Australia in which every young person is either contributing to society through meaningful employment, or on a pathway to work through appropriate education. He is convinced a 'whole of community' approach is the key to making this happen, with schools, businesses and the local community working together in a structured engagement program.

Scott has been instrumental in taking Beacon from a Tasmanian-based organisation to one that currently works with a hundred communities across Australia.