

“Seeing the victims and the pain they have carried gave me a chance to review some of the pain I have caused my victims.

It was like looking into a mirror but instead of seeing my pain, I saw only the pain of others”

(Prisoner Participant)



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“A bruised reed he will not break” Isaiah 42 v 3



Has a criminal offence committed against you, or someone you care about, ever significantly affected your health or wellbeing?

Has this negatively affected your attitudes, behaviours, emotions, relationships or sense of security?

If you consider that you have recovered from the incident, are you willing to share your experiences for the benefit of others?

If any of these questions apply to you, you may be a candidate for this programme.



**A Restorative Justice Programme sponsored by
Prison Fellowship Australia**

Quotes

"You have helped me drop a 30 year bundle."

(Adult victim of child sexual abuse,
to an offender convicted of murder)

"You have given me the greatest gift a deep and real understanding and insight into what my words and actions have done. I hope with this new insight, to go on to affect others' lives in a positive and healing way."

(Prisoner participant)

"Of all the courses I have done so far, this has indeed been the most beneficial. It is the most outstanding program in the prison system by far."

(Prisoner participant)

"I only wish that other secondary victims of crime could experience what I have and see that we don't need to be prisoners of pain, hate and fear."

(Secondary victim of a crime of murder)

The Sycamore Tree Project

- is an eight day course conducted, usually over eight weeks, in a local prison.
- involves a group of five to seven victims of crime, five to ten offenders (not related to the victims) and one or more facilitators.
- is usually sponsored by the prison chaplaincy.
- involves establishing a temporary caring community in which the consequences of crime, accountability for those consequences and appropriate responses can be examined, acknowledged and decided.
- endeavours to bring a degree of healing to all participants.
- derives from the bible story of Zaccheus in Luke 19:1-10.

For further information
www.pficjr.org/programs/stp
("articles" and "reports")