



## Get-A-GRIP

### Aim

To reduce the amount of recidivism amongst juvenile offenders by educating them as to the personal, social and financial costs of participating in illegal graffiti vandalism.

### Rational/Background

Graffiti in the Sutherland Shire is a major concern for the NSW Police Force and Sutherland Shire Council, as well as the local community in general. While there are a number of graffiti prevention initiatives already in place in the Sutherland Shire, Get-A-GRIP is the first of its kind to focus on educating young offenders as to the personal, social and financial costs of doing graffiti.

Young persons can be identified and referred to the program by: the Youth Liaison Officer (upon administration of a caution); the outcome of a Youth Justice Conference; as a Condition of a bond (court referral); or through a Juvenile Justice Referral that would form part of a supervised order. Parents will also be able to volunteer their child to the program by contacting Sutherland PCYC or Sutherland Shire Council.

Each program will consist of a small number of young persons (no more than 6) and will be run monthly over a period of two weeks which will involve two education sessions and a graffiti paint-out day. The second education component will include a presentation by a former graffiti vandal who was struck by a train as he was crossing the tracks resulting in him losing both an arm and a leg.

### Partners

Sutherland Shire Council  
NSW Police Force represented by Miranda and Sutherland Local Area Commands  
NSW Police Youth Command  
Sutherland PCYC  
Shire Wide Youth Services

### Expected Outcomes

1. Reduce instances of graffiti vandalism in the Sutherland Shire
2. Reduce the length of time that graffiti vandalism remains visible
3. Enhance the visual amenity of the Sutherland Shire and improve perceptions of safety
4. Educate young offenders as to the costs of graffiti vandalism and facilitate their ownership and participation in addressing the graffiti problem
5. Develop strong working relationships between all parties involved in the program
6. Reduce the costs of graffiti removal incurred by the community.

