



ST PHILIP'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

# Young Parents & Narnia Early Learning



**Young Parents  
College**  
FOR THE WHOLE OF LIFE



**Narnia  
Early Learning**  
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# St Philip's Christian College

## *Young Parents*

### **A TAILORED APPROACH TO EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN**

As part of St Philip's Christian College Tailored Education, the daily operation and delivery of education within our school is distinctively geared to meet the needs of Young Parents.

The needs of teenage mothers and fathers are complex. Many experience homelessness, domestic violence and have encountered a range of traumatic experiences. The importance of education for teen parents and their children in breaking cycles of disadvantage is well documented and is a significant health and social issue.

Some associated risks include long-term psychological, educational, social and economic consequences for both young mothers and their children.

Based on Christian beliefs and values, applying a non-judgmental, trauma informed approach, we recognise the importance of student wellbeing, a warm and inviting environment, flexible curriculum and learning programs, providing, an onsite Early Learning Centre, and the ongoing training and specialised development of staff.

We offer teenage/young parents the opportunity to experience generational change through education in an inclusive, culturally safe space with a focus on social, emotional, spiritual and academic development.



Our environment is unique, with both the School and Early Learning Centre onsite to conjointly support teen parents to re-engage with their education while their children are cared for and educated in a rich and nurturing environment.

Our partnerships with community organisations are key for offering the blended, integrated support that these young people need.

Our onsite Early Learning Centres are uniquely designed to support both parents and children through early education, to strengthen parenting skills and attachment. Providing wrap-around parenting support, the Early Learning Centres provide a positive, holistic education environment which further breaks cycles of educational disengagement.

# Our Mission

St Philip's Christian College will continue to provide quality education in a caring, secure and challenging learning environment based on Christian beliefs, values and practices.

## OUR AIMS

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Supporting pregnant and parenting teens to complete the Higher School Certificate in an engaging learning environment.



Supporting the children of teen parents through inclusive, quality early learning; partnering with families to build attachment and emotional resilience.



Supporting culture – closing the gap “Through young eyes, together, we all stand as one to learn and grow”.

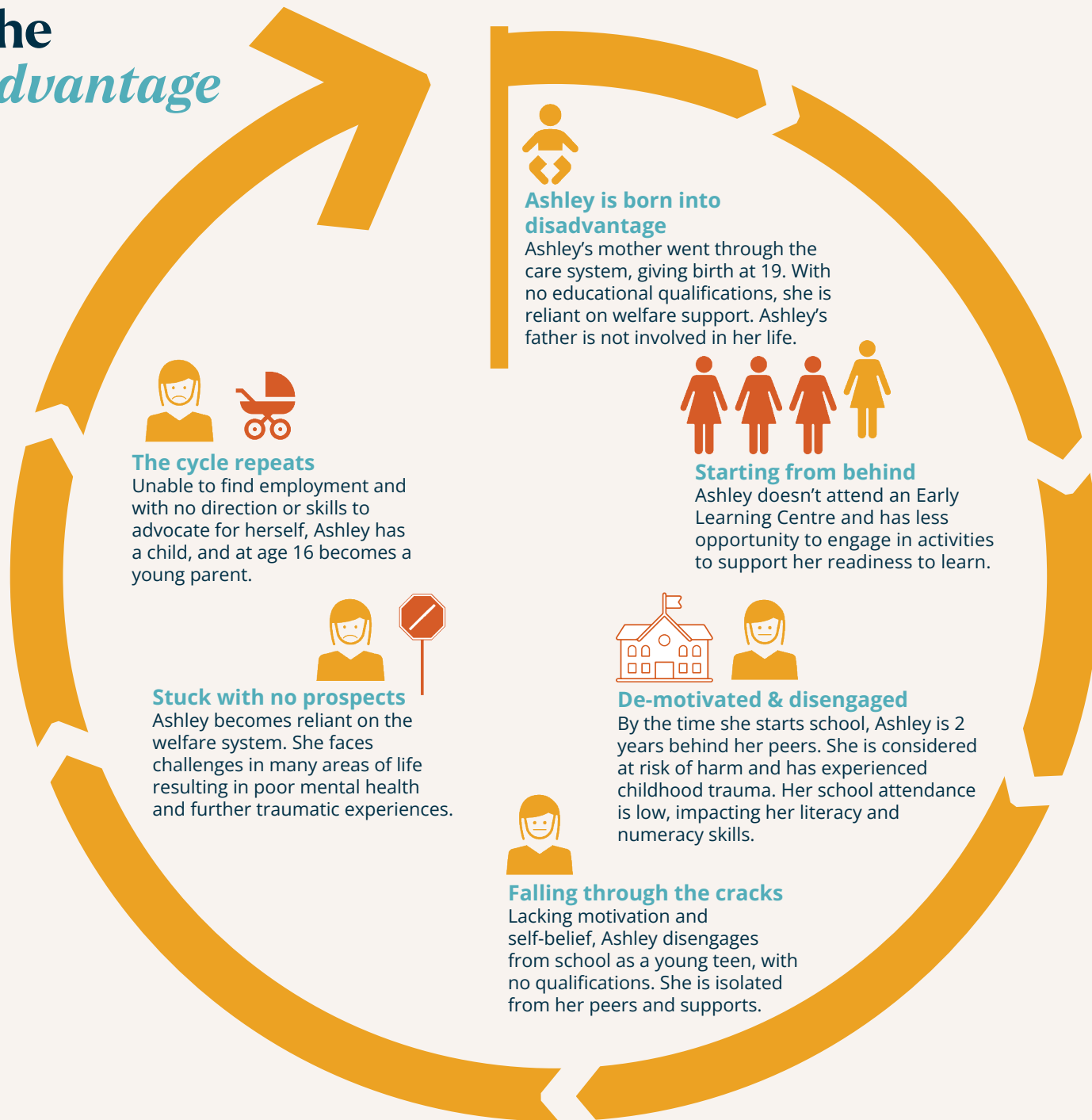


Supporting growth and change through physical, emotional, social, and spiritual wellbeing - for the whole of their life.

**Young Parents College offers an *inclusive, high-quality* education, in a *non-judgmental, safe & supportive* environment.**



# A Story Of The *cycle of disadvantage*



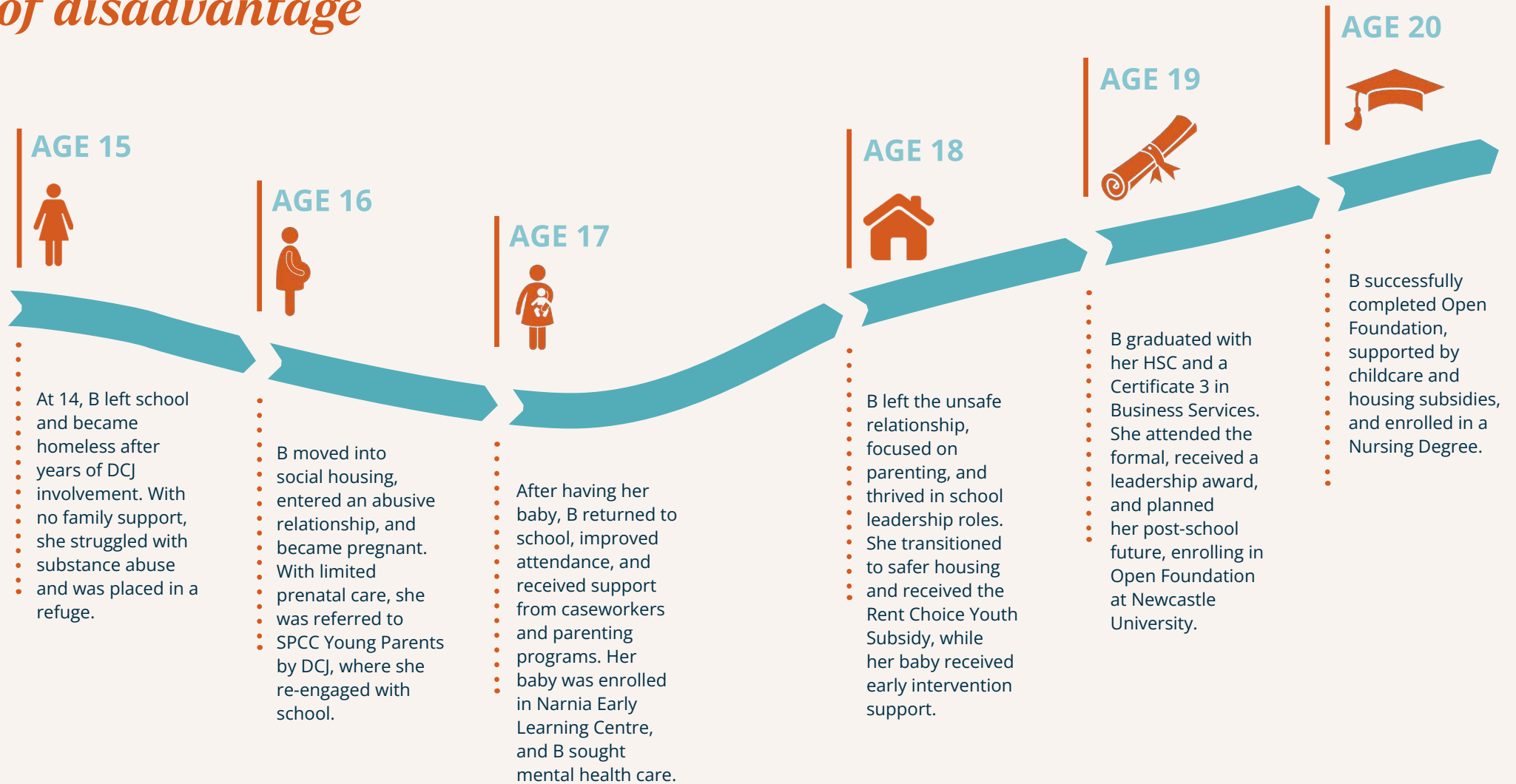


# Typical Student Profile *of a young parent enrolling at Young Parents College*

- Usually educated to Year 9 or 10, with low levels of literacy and numeracy, often with a history of poor school attendance and limited school engagement.
- Pregnant or with a child / children.
- History of unstable housing, unstable and unhealthy relationships, history of abuse / domestic and family violence.
- Unstable / complex Mental Health.
- Often have significant anxiety and struggle to regulate emotions.
- Generational welfare dependence and low levels of education.
- Reliant on public transport.
- Limited or no family support / dysfunctional family network. The family is often known to DCJ.
- Resilient, but not able to advocate for themselves and often have low expectations of achievement for themselves.
- Wants a better life for their child.
- Has experienced generational disadvantage.
- Aboriginality:  
Newcastle Campus – 44% of Students and 70% of their children.  
Central Coast Campus – 14% of Students and 38% of their children.



# How Young Parents College *has helped break the cycle of disadvantage*



# Donna's Story

## *a tale of tenacity*

I grew up in East Maitland, a place that holds both good and painful memories for me. My early years were tough—filled with challenges and trauma that shaped who I became as a young adult. At 18, life threw me a curve ball, I found out I was pregnant. At first, I was shocked and scared, but soon, a sense of excitement took over. I realised that this moment would change everything, and it did.

Up until then, I had been on a path that wasn't leading anywhere good. I had dropped out of school in Year 12, and my lifestyle was filled with substance use and risky choices. But finding out I was going to be a mum made me rethink everything. I knew I needed to make some major changes—not just for myself, but for the little life growing inside me. So, I quit using substances cold turkey, determined to give my child a better life.

Joining the SPCC Young Parents program was a turning point. The program became my lifeline, providing me with the support I desperately needed as both a mum and a student. The setup allowed

me to continue my education while also having access to on-site childcare, which took a huge weight off my shoulders. It was a place where I felt understood, where I could learn without being judged, and where I built friendships with others who were going through similar experiences. With the program's support, I found the strength to leave an abusive relationship—a step I'm not sure I could've taken on my own.

With the help of my family, I managed to complete my secondary education, but balancing studies with being a single mum was overwhelming. Still, I was determined to build a future for myself and my child, so I turned to vocational training in early childhood education through TAFE. That decision opened the door to a rewarding career in childcare.

Over the years, life evolved in ways I couldn't have imagined. I got married, had more children, and grew professionally. Eventually, I found my way into social services, specialising in out-of-home care assessments. Now, as a mature-age

student, I'm close to finishing my bachelor's degree—a milestone that seemed impossible at one point.

Looking at my children, especially my eldest daughter Kiana, who is now 15 and dreams of becoming a child psychologist, I can see the impact of the choices I made. My dedication to education didn't just change my life; it created a positive environment for my kids, showing them that hard work and personal growth are the keys to success.

When I reflect on my journey, I see how education played a crucial role in breaking the cycles of adversity that once defined my life. It gave me the tools to build a meaningful career and make a positive impact on society. My story is proof that with the right support, anyone can overcome their challenges and create a better future for themselves and their families.





# Here's Where We Stand

## *what the data shows*

# 25 Years

Young Parents College has 25 years of experience. Our Newcastle Campus started in 2000 and our Central Coast Campus has been running since 2012.

# 75%

Of graduates are employed within 5 years of finishing school.

# 3 Parenting Courses

By the time they graduate, students will have completed at least 3 evidence-informed parenting courses.

# 13 Graduates

Average of 13 graduates per year (80 in the last 6 years).

# 50%

Of graduates go on to Tertiary Education.

# HSC and Cert 3

Students will graduate with a Certificate 3 and full HSC.

## Most Young Parents College graduates:



Are the first in their family to finish school.



Have increased engagement with community support services.



Have increased community involvement and engagement.



Have increased engagement with Mental Health supports.



Access early intervention services for their children through Narnia Young Parents Early Learning Centre.



Have reduced child protection reports the longer the parent / child are engaged with Young Parents College.



# Narnia

## *a tailored approach to early learning*

Narnia Young Parents exists to provide a supportive environment for families and their children, consisting of high-quality education and care, as well as parenting support for parents who are studying at our Young Parents College.

We understand that as many of our young parents are determined to improve their own circumstances, their motivation is also to provide a loving environment for their little ones and to improve the future prospects for their babies.

Our fully qualified Christian Educators understand that the first few years of a child's life are a time of extraordinary development. Our stimulating early learning program with an emphasis on supporting attachment and emotional regulation skills, provides the building blocks children need to thrive.

Narnia Young Parents recognise the important role that early intervention plays in supporting young children and provides assistance to families to access these supports.

Our Young Parents College student classrooms are located adjacent to Narnia Early Learning, enabling the parents to participate in the daily nurturing of their children. Parenting programs are conducted throughout the year to further support positive parenting skills. The curriculum for some of the courses studied by the parents also incorporates activities planned for the babies.

Each baby and toddler we care for is a special gift and uniquely created. We are eager to get to know each child and watch their journey of discovering all that God has created them to be.

## **Providing supportive *partnerships* with young parents.**



# Dual Generational *change*

TWO GENERATIONS, ONE FUTURE - THE DUAL GENERATION PATHWAY THAT BREAKS THE CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE



YOUNG PARENT ENGAGED IN LEARNING WITH WRAP AROUND SUPPORT & SERVICES (13-21YRS)

CHILD ENGAGED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

CHILD IN A DISADVANTAGED HOUSEHOLD

YOUNG PARENT DISENGAGED FROM STUDY & WORK

- Confidence to pursue further education
- More job opportunities - stable income.
- Healthy relationships, better role model for child

YOUNG PARENT

- Positive parenting interactions
- Improved child development
- Increased readiness to learn
- Confidence to pursue own education & career
- Improved outcomes for future generations
- Positive parenting interactions and optimal child development enhances children's readiness to learn when they enter school

CHILD

- Opportunities limited due to lack of qualifications and skills
- Reliance on welfare
- Lack of understanding / ability to have healthy interactions with child
- Unstable relationships

CHILD

- Child has high probability of not finishing school
- Decreased readiness to learn
- Delays in many areas of development eg. speech

YOUNG PARENT





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## LOCATIONS: CENTRAL COAST & NEWCASTLE

**Newcastle Campus** | 98 Georgetown Rd, Waratah  
**Central Coast Campus** | 2A Amy Close, Wyong

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