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Legal Aid NSW is at the coalface of the criminal justice system. As such we have a unique exposure and insight into why young people offend. Our investment in this film is a symbol of our commitment to using that insight to try and prevent crime. We believe this film will have a major impact on young people across NSW. 'Burn' sends a clear and very powerful crime prevention message - about the tragic and avoidable consequences for everyone involved in offences of violence.

The film shows the forensic sophistication of police investigations for serious crimes - the use of CCTV footage, the cross linking of police incidents to identify offenders, the use of mobile phone tracing and transcripts.

This film could not have been developed without the support of our project partners - Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service, Barnardos Belmore, Glebe Youth Service, South Sydney Youth Service, Youth Zone - as well as the NSW Police.



CONTACTS // Julianne Elliott
tel: (02) 8688 3815
Julianne.Elliott@legalaid.nsw.gov.au



NSW police were extensively involved in the production. We are trying to send a clear message that if you commit a serious crime like this, you will get caught.

BURN

a short film



Legal Aid NSW has been running a major crime prevention program over the last year on young people and group offending. The program aims to prevent young people from getting caught up in serious group assaults and robberies.

We've run workshops for thousands of young people in NSW schools, youth centres and refuges, using role plays and case studies to illustrate how the criminal law works in a situation where a group is involved in a crime.

Due to the success of that program, Legal Aid decided to take it a step further and commissioned internationally acclaimed film maker David Vadiveloo, from Community Prophets to create the short film 'Burn'.



'Burn' tells the story of a typical juvenile robbery offence that escalates into a more serious act of violence.

Using characters and storyline that young people will relate to, it shows how easily you can get caught up in serious crime situations, just by being present.

Legal Aid NSW represents tens of thousands of young people a year facing charges in the Childrens Court. Frequently we deal with young people facing very serious charges for crimes that were instigated by someone else, that they never set out to commit, or that they just went along with.

These situations are often fuelled by alcohol and drugs or just poor decision making. However, we also believe that many young people misunderstand the criminal law, and often don't realise they can be held accountable

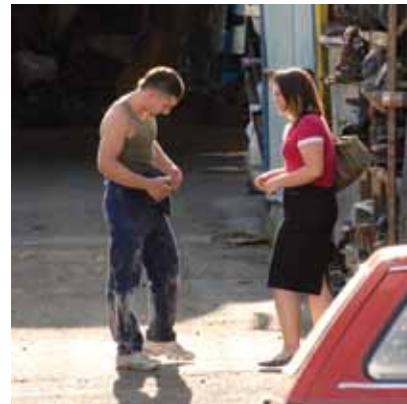


BURN

'Burn' tells the story of a typical juvenile robbery offence that escalates into a more serious act of violence.

Community Prophets were engaged for their expertise in working collaboratively with young people, and making films for youth communities which look and sound real.

There was no script for this film - the dialogue, storyline and characters were all developed working with a group of young people from Sydney, including the 11 cast members.



for someone else's actions if they participate in a crime as a group.

A young person may not have played an active role in the commission of the crime but may have assisted the offenders or remained present to back them up. This may involve jumping in to assist their mates during a fight, standing over victims during a robbery or "rolling" offence or acting as a lookout. It may also include driving offenders from the scene, swapping clothes or passing on stolen goods.

In these situations, if you are present at the scene and assisting, you can be charged as a principal offender under the laws of joint criminal enterprise, and held legally responsible for the actions of your co-accused, or the other people you were with.

The film is purpose built to illustrate how the law works in these complex group situations.

