



Fairholme College year 12 student Sarah Pascoe watches the *Putting Youth in the Picture* presentation. Students were full of praise for the confronting film.

Series shocks but paints right picture for students

Film opens youthful eyes



By **JIM CAMPBELL**
jim.campbell
@thechronicle.com.au

FAIRHOLME students were shocked, but full of praise after viewing a confronting new film targeted at young people.

Year 12 Fairholme students were the latest in the region to view *Putting Youth in the Picture*, a series of movie scenarios showing young people involved in life-altering incidents as a result of poor decision-making.

Unfortunately, they are situations that the presentation's creator, Adair Donaldson, is all too familiar with.

Working as a lawyer in Toowoomba, Mr Donaldson has seen many young lives destroyed by the misuse of alcohol, drugs, violence, cars and sex. He insists this presentation doesn't preach absti-

nence, but more the importance of making informed decisions and, above all, brutal honesty.

"We've shown about 2000 students to date and haven't had a negative response yet," Mr Donaldson said.

The positive feedback hasn't only come from students — both the Brisbane Broncos and Gold Coast Titans have committed to presenting it to their youth sides.

However, it is the government that has been the hardest group to reach.

"What's disappointing is the government wanted innovative community-based education campaigns, and we've developed that with this program," Mr Donaldson said.



Adair Donaldson believes the key to getting through to youth is honesty. PICTURES: BEV LACEY

"But for whatever reason they're not prepared to provide us with funding, which has meant we're forced to rely upon private sponsorship and self-funding."

However, the evidence of the program's success is quite clear in the reaction — Fairholme students Liz Correy and Sofie Rich were both full of praise for the presentation.

"It was really realistic — both the music and the clothes were accurate so I think it was easier to relate to," Liz said.

While they hadn't experienced the scenarios first-hand, both girls agreed they were aware of similar situations in Toowoomba.

"I thought it was confronting, but in a good way. Because if it's all sugar-coated you don't realise the real consequences — I do think it needs to be shocking," Sofie said.

The girls even said they thought their parents should see the film, along with their younger fellow students.

‘We've shown about 2000 students to date and haven't had a negative response yet.’

— Adair Donaldson