

Title: Sowing the seed “INSIDE”

Theme: Community Showcasing

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Going inside the Women’s Prison to do work in there is like trying to sow some seeds on a piece of land that is quite dry and low in its fertility rate. Our women inside is considered to be the “soil” for the “replanting” to take place. The women present with alcohol and drug related issues. Most of them are drug related offenders. Tupu A & D workers have been running groups “INSIDE” since 2006. It has been a very exciting journey of its own; encountering a lot of excitements, challenges, growth and adventure. As the women share their stories; their lives; we as clinicians, go ‘INSIDE’ to make them feel comfortable and to come as they are. Tupu goes in to start “sowing” the seed of hope; hope for a new life; hope for making some significant changes in their lives; hope for a new sense of freedom from alcohol and drugs. It is also important to be strong to make that big decision to carry out some changes in one’s lives. It is imperative therefore to know the types of “soil” one’s working on; the time to “sow” as well as the follow up support of “watering” the plants as they grow...and still be wary of the “natural disasters” that could come at any time and uproot the things we value and respect. Come and hear the journeys of our women “INSIDE” and how we have used them as an intervention process for our clients.

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