

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Participant's Thoughts

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Offenders who have participated in restorative justice (RJ) have said:

"It was different to what I expected. I expected them to point fingers at us and be more aggressive towards us."

"I reckon that it went pretty well. It helped us know what we've done wrong and how it has affected others."

"Felt it was the right thing to do to sort things out and get everything fixed up."

"I liked it actually. I felt comfortable. I wasn't put on the spot by the questions."

"The conference went really well. It was difficult and emotional for everyone. I'm convinced the system [restorative justice] works. It made me feel a lot worse [for what I did], getting to know the victim".

"I wasn't feeling pressured. I was willing to do anything to put right what I did."

"Given that I knew the victim I feel better having done this than avoiding her by going to Court."

"I think I dug myself out of a massive hole with her [the victim] and my family."

"I felt that we could both clear our heads. I was sincere about my apology"

Offender supporters who have participated in RJ have said:

"I have met the convenor on a number of occasions. She really helped my son and she helped me. I was worried about how it would go and after the conference. It was a relief and repaired a lot of damage."

"The conference was outstanding, not just for my son [the offender], but for our family unit. It has assisted us to move on."

"To me I feel really grateful that the process was there and that it was an option. That it wasn't a hard-line approach. Fortunate that the process was there for teenagers, a second chance for rehabilitation. Parents who come across this should be glad it's there."

"It makes them [the offenders] accountable for what they have done, rather than just sitting in front of the judge."

“Ample time for everyone to speak and we were given equal opportunity to speak”.