



Letter of the week

Congratulations on your story about Typo Station ("The Lost Boys", October 24). And thank you to leaders like Shane Carey, Kate Walsh and Chris Thorne. It is enormously heartening, as a parent, to know that there are people with such passion who dedicate themselves to helping young people. This is an investment in our futures, and places such as Typo deserve our support. These tales are more inspiring and real to me than what the latest model/actress/celebrity is doing/has done.

Robyn Ford, Rushworth, Vic

Write to: Your Turn
Good Weekend
GPO Box 1939
Melbourne, Vic 3001
Email: yourturn@fairfax.com.au
Fax: (03) 9604 1266

Letters should be 100 words or less, must contain writer's full name, home address and daytime telephone number, and may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.

NOTE: Writers using email must include full contact details (no attachments, please).

The Lost Boys

Thank you, John van Tiggelen, for your October 24 article. Insightful in its observations, it offers a detailed portrait of young men so often stereotyped as insensitive and cruel. Thanks, too, to the men and women behind Typo Station for their unsung efforts in guiding these boys as they become adults. The results may not be tangible or quantifiable, but stories like Jamie's need no statistics to support them.

Joel Turner
Five Dock, NSW

Chris Thorne gets straight to the heart of the matter when he says, "It's a dereliction of love by one or both parents" that can make children go off the rails. Children need love and acceptance. I hope people like Thorne are well rewarded for their efforts in transforming young lives.

Pamela Bennett
Glenbrook, NSW

Having worked in corrections for more than five years, I see first hand the product of emotionally negligent, abusive and dysfunctional parenting. Maybe it would be more beneficial to send "bad parents" to boot camps to ensure "lost boys" (and girls) have a better chance of a life without violence, substance dependency and prison. Sending Jamie home to a stepfather who is unwilling to show any acceptance, love or encouragement seems detrimental to his future.

Name and address withheld

If only all families and communities could embrace the critical message that Typo Station leader Chris Thorne sent in stating that the middle adolescent years are the time when "magic happens", and that young people's life paths are not set in stone. Young people are not children, and neither are they adults. Adolescents need love and support to grow and learn. Research shows that family connections remain paramount, particularly during testing times. And sometimes even troubled young people need to be told by us all they are welcomed, valued and supported in our complex society.

Elly Robinson
Brunswick, Vic