



What is the Ruby's Reunification Program?

The Ruby's Reunification Program supports young people and their families in rebuilding relationships and staying connected. It aims to keep young people out of the child protection and homelessness systems.

Established in 1993 by Uniting Communities in South Australia, Ruby's provides short-term stays in a home-like environment. It gives families a chance to take a break while working toward reunification. Through a mix of counselling, structured support, and planned time apart, families can work through challenges and strengthen their relationships.

Brisbane Youth Service (BYS) has two Ruby's houses, located on the northside and southside of Brisbane.

We also provide outreach counselling across Brisbane.

Who is Ruby's for?

At BYS, the Ruby's Program supports young people aged 12-15 years who:

- are at risk of leaving home or have recently left due to conflict, disconnection, communication difficulties, or other complex issues
- can live safely at home with family or chosen family support
- want to return home and are willing to participate in the program.

Participation is voluntary. The young person and their family (or chosen family member) must be willing to participate. The goal is to support the young person to remain safely at home.

How does Ruby's work?

- **Respite and structured support:** While every young person's experience at Ruby's is different, they stay at a Ruby's house for short periods, alternating with time at home while participating in family counselling and structured activities.
- **24/7 support:** Ruby's staff are available around the clock for guidance and assistance.
- **Personalised family plans:** Each family develops a plan tailored to their strengths, challenges, and goals.
- **Skill-building and engagement:** Young people are supported to stay engaged in education, training, or volunteering.
- **Family-focused activities:** Regular family dinners, counselling sessions, and activities help rebuild trust and connection.

How to refer

To refer a young person or learn more about the BYS program, please contact us at:



rubys@brisyouth.org

To learn more about the Ruby's service delivery model, visit:

unitingcommunities.org/service/rubys-reunification-program.



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