

# best kept in the past

# Rehab service goes to wall



**MORTIFYING:** Formal chaperone Michael Hodgman embarrasses daughter Tori by taking the stage for a song.



**BRILLIANT BEGINNING:** Radio personality Tori Hodgman as a Fahan School leaver in 1984.



**PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ:** John X at his formal. He says his impromptu performance that night helped launch his career.



**DISASTER:** WIN TV presenter Anna McMahon and a friend at her year 12 formal in the late '70s.

**MATT SMITH**

PRISONERS seeking drug and alcohol treatment will be turned away now funding has run dry for a Hobart-based rehabilitation provider.

Not-for-profit organisation Holyoake has been providing treatment programs for prisoners, both within the prison system and when they leave, for the past five years.

This week Holyoake had to retrench the co-ordinator of the programs, Bill Parsell, after government funding dried up.

Holyoake chief executive Sarah Charlton said the last opportunity to tender for government funding had been in 2009 and the organisation had constantly been having to ask the State Government and other organisations for funding to keep the program running.

She said there had been bridging funds for six months at a time to look after clients.

Since April, 55 clients had been unable to access the prison program because of a lack of funding, Ms Charlton said.

Liberal health spokesman Jeremy Rockliff said yesterday Holyoake had been let down by the Government.

"The Labor-Green Government have made continued promises to Holyoake but haven't delivered," Mr Rockliff said.

"Instead, it has forced Holyoake to limp along with uncertain funding."

Mr Rockliff said he had written to Corrections Minister Nick McKim in May and been told that the Department of Health and Human Services would shortly offer a public

tender which would give Holyoake the opportunity to secure more permanent funding, but this had not happened.

Alcohol and Drug Services Tasmania state manager John Alderdice told the *Mercury* yesterday that tender opportunities would be available for Holyoake in January and June next year.



**JEREMY ROCKLIFF**

But Ms Charlton said the funding opportunities that were being offered would not be for programs to assist people who had identified that they needed help for their own

addictive behaviour. "It also does not support the people in prison," she said.

Kristin, an ex-client of the Holyoake programs, who did not want her surname published, said if it had not been for the support she received from Holyoake, she would not be set up with her partner and looking after their children.

"I would be back in prison, dead, or on drugs," she said.

Kristin said it was essential for services like Holyoake to be available for people who came out of prison and wanted to kick their alcohol and drug addictions.

"You come out and get welfare and then they just leave you," she said.

Kristin said the first time she had come out of jail she could not find a service like Holyoake so she robbed a taxi driver just to get back into prison.

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