

Youth Mentoring Program

The GR8 MATES Mentoring Programme is a school-based programme which may last up to 12 months, during which time the volunteer adult mentor and young person (mentee) will have fun together and work towards the achievement of goals set by the young person and career-related tasks, which are part of this formal, structured programme.

Mentors are positive role models in the community, good listeners, non-judgmental, wanting to encourage, support, coach and be a friendly cheerleader to a young person.

Mentors will

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Reside or work in the Penrith, Blue Mountains or Hawkesbury regions
- Commit to the programme for 12 months
- Attend a free mentor training programme prior to being matched with a young person
- Receive ongoing training, supervision and support
- Commit to two hours a week involvement in the programme during term time

The mentoring journey includes nationally accredited training and support auspiced by TAFE New South Wales.

The Schools Industry Partnership is a not-for-profit Local Community Partnership (LCP) involved with high schools in the Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury regions. It assists 13 to 19-year olds obtain the skills, experience and professional guidance they need to make a successful transition through school and onto further education, training and employment.

LCPs implement three Australian Government funded career development and transition support programmes:

- The Structured Workplace Learning Programme provides one on one workplacements with host employers.*
- The Career and Transitions Support Programme facilitates access for young people to a range of career and transition support programmes. The GR8 MATES youth mentoring programme is one such programme.
- The Adopt a School Programme encourages businesses to work with school (s) to engage young people in hands on learning experiences and develop their understanding of work and employability skill

*SWL also receives funding from the NSW Board of Vocational Education and Training

The interactive, experiential mentor training will focus on what becoming a mentor involves, contemporary youth issues, goal getting, communication, resiliency, employability skills, child safety and resolving conflicts.

What mentors say about the training:

"A fantastic course of self-discovery. Should be open to everyone as a lot of people would learn about themselves and their actions."

"Great course! Quite aside from how this will assist with my mentoring process, 99% of it is transferable to my work situation, and life in general."

"This was the best course I have been on in terms of people skills, relationships, communication."

For more information please contact the Programme Coordinator:

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