

Youth
**WORKSHOP
MENTORING
PROGRAM**

**"It's really helped me understand
the meaning of respect for others"**

- Participant, Age 14

YOUTH WORKSHOP MENTORING PROGRAM STAFF



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THE YOUTH WORKSHOP MENTORING PROGRAM OUTLINE

Engagement with a young person's school can be impeded by family-based challenges, mental health, social relationship and other issues.

To assist students who are struggling with engagement, Open House is offering these young people an opportunity to participate in the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program.

The **Youth Workshop Mentoring Program** is a program that is focused on improving the engagement of students by:

- *Building self-awareness, self-confidence and self-esteem*
- *Improving social skills and relationships*
- *Providing hands on learning opportunities*
- *Restoring enjoyment to learning*
- *Linking young people with appropriate support*
- *Providing mentoring*
- *Supporting family relationships and establishing goals*

WHO IS THE YOUTH WORKSHOP FOR?

This program is open to students from secondary schools (year 7-10) who have shown signs of disengagement and/or irregular attendance at school.

To be eligible for the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program, students must be referred to the program (by their school or relevant agency), using the appropriate Open House Referral Form.

WHAT DOES THE YOUTH WORKSHOP MENTORING PROGRAM OFFER THE STUDENTS?

Students will be engaged through four Pillars of the program;

1. *Life Skills*
2. *Connectedness to Community*
3. *Mentoring*
4. *Fun Activities*

Pillar 1: Life Skills

Students will be given opportunities to learn a range of life skills (both informally and formally) which will help them navigate through life's circumstances in a positive manner.

Opportunities Include:

- *Trade/Maintenance Projects*
- *Hands-On Workshop Projects (Carpentry, Building, Mechanics, Metal Work)*
- *Gardening/Horticulture*
- *Bicycle Maintenance*
- *Beekeeping*
- *Barista/Hospitality Skills*
- *Photography/Video Editing*
- *Job Readiness Skills*
- *Time Management*
- *Communication with Peers & Adults*
- *Resilience*
- *Friendships*
- *Managing Peer Pressure*
- **AND MUCH MUCH MORE!**



Pillar 2: Connectedness to Community

Students will be encouraged to recognise that they have a right to belong and be connected to many communities and will learn the importance and value of giving back to the communities we are connected into. Activities that promote a sense of connectedness may involve opportunities to promote the welfare of others and assist in eliminating social problems, increase wellness in people, society and the planet.



Students will:

- *Develop an awareness of how they can contribute/give back to the local community*
- *Be empowered to recognise and respect the diversity of those in their social groups*
- *Be equipped with skills to cooperate well with others within their communities*



Pillar 3: Mentoring

Provides students with positive role models and mentors. The aim of the mentoring is to increase the students' self-worth, confidence, connectedness to school, community and to improve social development of family and peer relationships.

Students will set goals, create steps and actions to achieve their goals.

Progress will be monitored and support offered as required.

Pillar 4: Fun Activities

These are used to engage students in activities which promote friendship, fun, team work and adventure.

These activities provide:

- *Opportunities for students to visit new places of interest*
- *Incursions and excursions throughout the program*
- *Sports activities onsite*



Examples of Incursions and Excursions - which will be based on students' interest are:

- Science Works
- Melbourne Museum
- Point Cook Aviation Museum
- Fun Fields Water Park
- Bounce Trampoline Park
- Snow Trip
- ACMI
- Bike Rides
- Melbourne Zoo/Healesville Sanctuary
- Roller Skating/Ice Skating
- Laser tag/bowling
- Archery
- Street Art Tour in the City
- Fishing
- Hiking/Camping



WHEN IS THE YOUTH WORKSHOP MENTORING PROGRAM BEING DELIVERED?

The Youth Workshop Mentoring Program will be delivered in each term of the school year. Students will be engaged with the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program one day per week and ideally committed to the program for a minimum of 2 school terms.

WHAT IS THE COST TO ATTEND THE YOUTH WORKSHOP MENTORING PROGRAM?

There are **three payment** options:

Option 1 - NDIS or Agency Referral - Open House is a NDIS Service Provider and a Service Agreement can be arranged to cover the cost of the program.

Option 2 - A School Agreement may be in place (check with your school or Open House staff if this is the case).

Option 3 - Individual Participant Agreement (please discuss this with your school or Open House staff).

Please Note:

- *Students are required to provide their own lunch during the program (unless stated otherwise).*
- *There are additional costs for off-site activities (these are usually minimal and are communicated to participants/parents/guardians prior to the activity).*

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

We want all students of the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program to get the most from the program. Many of these activities have some level of personal and emotional risk and therefore require team work, a willingness to follow instructions and consideration for all students and staff. For this to happen, the students will need to achieve the following expectations:

Respecting self, others and the environment

- *Treat fellow members, instructors and leaders with respect.*
- *Be respectful of other's opinions, feelings, personal space and belongings.*
- *Ensure that mobile phones/electronic devices are turned off during all activities unless otherwise stated.*
- *A zero tolerance for violence (physical, verbal and emotional).*

Safety and Legal

- *Students should inform the staff if they have to leave the activity/premises.*
- *Students are to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for a workshop environment.*
- *Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, weapons are not allowed.*
- *Mobile phones, tablets and other electronics devices are not allowed in our programs.*
- *Should students arrive substance affected, or bring any weapons or tobacco to the program then they may be removed from the program. This is to ensure the safety of themselves and others.*

Confidentiality

- *Group members may share their personal stories during the program. It is therefore important to be respectful of their experiences and personal stories. Students are expected to be respectful of the privacy of others.*

Attendance

- *Students are expected to attend all sessions. If the student does not attend for 2 consecutive weeks, the Program Coordinator will discuss this with the school and/or parent.*

Breach of the program expectations may result in the program staff assessing the risk and one of the following actions will be taken:

- *A discussion with the Youth Workshop Staff will be held to identify which behaviours may go against the agreement.*
- *Staff will sit with the student and review the expectations.*
- *A formal meeting will be held between the Program Coordinator, the student and possibly the school. This may result in the student not being able to continue with the program.*



OPEN HOUSE

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Open House is a ChildSafe Organisation

