

Who's the Mentor

Thought of the Day

"Each player must accept the cards life deals.

But once they are in hand, each alone must decide how to play the cards in order to win the game."

Voltaire, 1694-1778

Hi to you all

Wow I can't believe we are almost to the end of the financial year already.

Many of you are in the process of starting off new mentor matches and activities and others have just received the news that their groups are being refunded—congratulations to all.

I am happy to announce that the funding for my position as the Coordinator of the Make Mentoring Matter project for the Hume region has also been refunded—I will continue to be available to support Mentoring groups within the Hume region and assist Agencies and Organizations looking to form a partnership to establish a mentoring program in their area to address a need for young people to be supported in their pathway to adulthood.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss mentoring.

Don't forget the State Mentor Summit coming up in August—Group Coordinators and Mentors from the Hume are welcome to join their counterparts from all over the State at a Summit in Melbourne to be held in August—details to follow.

Inside this newsletter you will find a short questionnaire on your individual programs, if you could fill it out and email it back to me it will assist me in keeping an up to date record of programs, Mentors and Mentees and innovative initiatives being taken on by Agencies and groups alike—all of this information assists us as a whole in the Community when there is query about mentoring and its affect on young people.

We still have 2 Network Forums and the Celebration of Mentoring coming up in the next 6 months, more details on page 2

The focus on Youth Mentoring continues to go from strength to strength, Communities continue to realize the potential of mentoring support for young people and Mentors and Mentees continue to share and learn from each other.

I continue to meet with local organizations, councils and newer and established Mentor Coordinators about the need in their local area.

I look forward to speaking with you all soon

Newsletter Date

June 2009

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Cheers *Sue*

Hume Region Mentor Network Forum for 2009



Information on upcoming Network Forums

Date:- Wednesday 26th August 2009

Title:- *Policy Development*—Basic policy development – websites giving assistance

SWOT analysis, some action research and evaluations. If Group Coordinators could bring their current policies for discussion and sharing

Where:- Conference Room

Strathbogie Shire Council Community Services

Binney Street Euroa

Time:- 10am—12 midday

Date:- Wednesday 25th November 2009

Title:- *end of year reflection/ Achievements and forward planning*

Where:- Wodonga—Venue top be arranged

Time 10am—12 midday

And don't forget:-

Celebration of Mentoring in the Hume Region - This celebration will take place in October this year—so stay tuned –this will be a great day to not only highlight your own programs but to see what other programs are doing and to take time out to celebrate with Mentors and Mentees.

Date:- in the week of October 25th—31st 2009

Where:- Benalla - Venue to be confirmed

Time:- to be confirmed

So watch out for updates and highlight this one in your diary as not to be missed!!!

GRANT WRITING TIPS (as a follow up from our grant writing session)

Call the grant manager

Don't be afraid to call the grant manager to talk through your application. This may well save you loads of time on submitting an application that is way off the mark!

Be clear

About your vision and goals. Check to see if this matches with what the funding is about. If so, go for it. If not, reassess your project. If you still decide to go ahead proceed with caution.... the project might then take you in a different direction. Are you okay with that? If no then look for other avenues to support your ideas.

Follow the guidelines

Government selection is clear and transparent. A panel will assess your application against the grant guidelines when they review submissions, so you should too!

Consider criteria weightings

Often government grant criteria are weighted. This should be stated within the grant guidelines. So consider this when you are responding. Don't put all of your effort into a criteria that is only weighted 10% and then be brief when a criteria is weighted at 50%.

Don't regurgitate Government policy

Obviously it's important to demonstrate how your application aligns with government policy. It may even be direct criteria in the guidelines. But remember, we should already know the policies so don't need to hear it all quoted back to us in your submission. Mention it, but don't go overboard.

Use evidence

If you have evaluation data to back up your submission, use it. Have you completed some of your own research? Demonstrate to the panel how you have verified the need for your project. Don't just say it's needed, prove it!

Keep it clear and simple and don't make assumptions

The panel reviewing your submission may have **hundreds** (that's right, this isn't a typo!) of others to read within a short timeframe. Keep to the point, address the criteria clearly and succinctly but don't assume they will have an understanding of the project. When in doubt spell it out.

Make the numbers add up

Grant applications always ask for a budget breakdown. Triple check the figures to make sure they add up. Nothing like some dodgy maths to undermine your credibility!

Build funding and sustainability in to your budget

There's nothing worse than getting to the end of your project without a future in sight. Consider allocating part of your budget for investigating future funding and sustainability. NEVER assume that you will be re-funded. Be on the front foot.

Use a proof reader

Get someone else from your organisation to read your application and check your figures before you submit. They will hopefully pick up any typos, spelling and maths errors and also give you a great litmus test for understanding the content.

Good luck

Working With Children's Check and Teachers' Registration.

Some valuable info regarding people working with children / youth....

School teachers are not required to have Working With Children Checks as long as they have a current, valid Teachers' Registration number. The Victorian Teacher's Registration works the same way as a Working With Children Check. The following link takes you to the webpage where you can search the register to ensure that someone's registration is still valid.

http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document_ID=959

For people who have had a WWCC, you can check that it is still valid by checking the WWCC register on the following page:

<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Working+With+Children/Home/WWCC+-+Check+Status+-+Weblink>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Don't forget that applications for Grants between \$1000 and \$5000 can be applied for until 31st July. Categories are "disengaged youth" and "social inclusion". Agencies must have charity status with the ATO.

See links below.

Optus Connecting Communities Grants Program - Advertorial

Please see link: http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/detail.shtml?filename_num=281993

Youth Mentoring Network

Don't forget to take the opportunity to register your program with YMN—there is no cost in registering your program details on the online data base and gives you the opportunity to use online tools and resources.

At the same time you will also helping to create a more sustainable future for mentoring.

Visit their website today www.youthmentoring.org.au to learn more about their campaign and how to register a program on the YMN data base.

They can also be contacted on info@youthmentoring.org.au or (02) 90827287

Hume Region Group Update

If group Coordinators could find time to fill this short questionnaire in it would be most helpful to update my information

How many Mentors and Mentees do you currently have in your program?
Mentors
Mentees
Number of Matches
Do you know of any new Mentor groups in your area – either formal or informal?
Are there any challenges you have at present with your mentor program?
Name a recent success for your project
Do you have any new and exciting initiatives your program is working on?

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The Victorian Youth Mentoring Alliance's 'Community Partnerships in Mentoring Forum' was held in October, from this ideas and tools have been developed to assist you in building strong partnerships.

these resources from the day are available on the VYMA website at www.youthmentoringvic.org.au

They cover:

VYMA Community partnership presentation

Vichealth presentation / Vichealth partnership analysis tool

The Community partnership in Mentoring resource list

Working in partnership guide

2008 Department of planning and Community development

The practical partnering toolkit 2007

The partnering tool book 2003

The partnership self assessment tool kit

And several Memorandum of Understanding samples

The publication that came out of the Volunteer Mentor Summit in July 2008.

is available for download at www.youthmentoringvic.org.au

This guide is a culmination of your views and provides coordinators with a real insight into 'What Mentors Want'.

Valuable Contacts

Victorian Youth Mentoring Alliance Website: www.youthmentoringvic.org.au

Office for Youth Website: www.youth.vic.gov.au

Youth Mentoring Network Australia: info@youthmentoring.org.au

Mentoring News: newsletter@mentoring-works.com



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NESAY - North east Support and Action for Youth Inc - is a not for profit Youth and Family Welfare Agency.

NESAY has offered multi faceted programs across the Hume Region for the past 20 years working with homeless and extremely disadvantaged youth and their families.

Empowering young people by providing support to encourage feelings of self worth and confidence to deal with issues in their day to day life.

NESAY as the lead Community Agency, are funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust to provide a whole of region co-ordination role for mentoring programs.

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