

Call for mentors to participate in a program to help our young people

About the Program

The Mentor Support Network, with the support of Northern Settlement Services and the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, is launching a pilot program in early 2019 to assist young people from a refugee background who are living in the Hunter Region to:

- remain enrolled in high school or educational institute during the term of the program;
- increase their confidence in their ability to engage with their studies;
- make well informed decisions about their future;
- increase their knowledge of training opportunities and further education; and
- pursue opportunities in a chosen career, resulting in employment and advancement.

As part of that program, the young people selected to participate will be provided with a mentor. **Mentor Support Network are currently looking for volunteers, who have an understanding of the challenges faced by young people from a refugee background, to act as mentors.**

How you can help

As a mentor, you would provide support, guidance and encouragement to a young person, building relationships to help them overcome cultural barriers and a lack of confidence. You would:

- participate in one-on-one sessions and share your work, study and life experiences
- act as a role model and inspire a young person's education and career aspirations
- make social connections by offering support and friendship in a fun and non-judgemental environment

This is an opportunity to play a significant role in empowering young people in our community by volunteering as a mentor. By contributing your time, talents and networks, you can make a genuine and positive difference in the life of a disadvantaged new Australian.

Am I qualified?

This program would suit a mentor who:

- has at least 5 years' experience in a workplace (or is self-employed)
- is willing to share details of their personal and professional experiences with their mentee

What's involved?

A mentor needs to:

- be able to attend training sessions with the Mentor Support Network, depending on his or her experience. These sessions will be held at Northern Settlement Services offices in Hamilton on **Saturday 2, 9 and 16 February 2019 from 9:30am to 12:30pm**

- be able to attend an event at the offices of Northern Settlement Services in Hamilton on **Monday 18 February 2019 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm** to meet the student participants and be matched with a mentee, which will take place after the completion of the training sessions
- commit to a **13 week program** to meet with their mentee once a week at the Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre between 4:30pm and 6:00pm, commencing **4 March 2019**. The sessions will be held in a group environment so there will be an opportunity to work with other mentors
- have, or who can obtain, a Working With Children Clearance from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au) - this is at no cost to you
- be willing to participate in an evaluation process at the end of the program

Mentors will be provided with:

- mentor and cultural awareness training from experienced practitioners
- an opportunity to work on their skills in leadership and communication
- a sense of fulfilment and personal growth

How to apply

If you would like to register your interest in becoming a mentor for this program, please complete the short online application form by clicking <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/msn-mentor-application>. A member from the Mentor Support Network will then be in touch with you to discuss your application.

Applications will be accepted until **5:00pm on Friday 7 September 2018**.

For more information about the Mentor Support Network, visit:

<http://www.mentorsupportnetwork.com.au/>