

Exciting Volunteer Mentoring Opportunity in Your Community!

What is New Beginnings?

Background

New Beginnings is a **free pilot mentoring program** offered to local schools and delivered by YWCA NSW, funded by the NSW Department of Education & Communities.

New Beginnings is a dynamic **2 day workshop that takes place in schools throughout NSW. Each workshop will reach 10-15 selected Year 8 students and require 4 or more volunteer adult mentors.** Mentors will work with students to help them develop their understanding of **community, personal responsibility, and leadership.**

Workshops will be facilitated by experienced YWCA NSW staff and involve fun, interactive activities and experiential learning. Mentors will offer guidance, inspiration, and support to young people as they find their voices and learn to create change in their communities. At the end of the program, mentors will work closely with their mentees to organise and present a short project proposal to a local official or community stakeholder.

Goals

- Young people gain practical leadership skills
- Young people become more connected to their communities (via working with mentors) and are more likely to be involved in civic engagement opportunities
- Young people gain an improved sense of self efficacy and their own roles within their communities

Target group

10-15 Year 8 students whom school officials believe will benefit from a leadership opportunity. Key considerations for selection will include students with potential to develop leadership skills who may not have had this opportunity.

Why should I get involved?

Getting involved in *New Beginnings* is a great chance to help make a change in a young person's life, meet other like-minded adults, learn some new skills, and contribute to your local community, all while having lots of fun! Training and support materials are provided in advance of the workshop.

This is also a fantastic opportunity for those who are interested in mentoring to try it out in a short-term program. While further mentoring possibilities may arise later, this workshop comes with no obligation or expectation of a future commitment.

What do I need to do?

- Attend the 1-night information session & volunteer orientation
- Obtain a free working with children check from NSW government (instructions provided)
- Commit to 2 consecutive full school days (dates vary by location- will be provided at orientation)
- Be willing to share your knowledge and experience while letting young people steer the conversation
- Offer your warmth, enthusiasm, attention and support!

How do I sign up or find further information?

To get involved or for further information, simply call (02) 9285 6272 or email Mara Greenwood, project manager at marag@ywcansw.com.au