

## Jason & Peter's Story

Jason was a good kid in year 10 (aged 16). His results at school were above average and his behaviour was excellent. He comes from a stable home with a supportive mum and dad.

He chose to do the program because he had no idea what he wanted to do when he left school. He thought maybe something to do with maths. He'd heard there were some good automotive courses at TAFE.

Jason was matched with Peter – a quiet, gentle man of about 70. Peter had years of experience at managing his own panel business and employing staff. After completing the Mentor Training course, Peter was ready to participate in the program with Jason. They spent 12 weeks (a couple of hours each week) going through the program – trying to work out what Jason was good at and what he liked doing. Peter told of his experiences and gathered information for Jason so that he could actually see what the work involved and talk to someone who really understood the job – find out what was good or bad about it. He also arranged a worksite visit at a local Vehicle Painting company for Jason and his parents.

Jason completed the Mentor program and decided that he did want to go to TAFE – he's studying to be a qualified vehicle painter – and really enjoying it – especially the precision work – he thinks that's the sort of work he'll go into. Jason believes Peter's involvement has opened doors for him and opened his eyes to what's out there. He also feels more confident having the support and attention of someone like Peter. They keep in contact regularly and Peter has agreed to continue to mentor Jason until he gets into the workforce.



## Mentors for our Students

The Mentors for our Students pilot program aims to:

- Engage young people with recently retired tradespeople, professionals and paraprofessionals as mentors to encourage young people to seek out careers in areas experiencing skill shortages and to enhance their industry knowledge
- Utilise the knowledge and experience of older Australians to pass on their skills and knowledge to young Australians
- Improve school retention rates and transitions of young people.

The areas of identified skill shortage include:

**Trades: Metal machinist, Toolmaker, Pressure welder/welder, Sheet metal worker, Motor mechanic, Auto electrician, Panel beater, Vehicle painter, Air conditioning mechanic**

**Professional & paraprofessional careers: Computing professional, Registered nurse, Registered midwife, Registered mental health nurse, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Medical diagnostic radiographer, Sonographer**

## Contact Mentors for our Students

For more information about the Mentors for our Students Program, contact

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Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations

**The youth of today are the future of tomorrow...**

**Here is your chance to make a lasting difference**

**Mentors  
for our  
Students**



## Mentors for our Students

Mentors for our Students is an initiative supporting young people with the transition between school and work, through mentoring.

Mentoring for our Students brings together a range of community groups, schools, retired and semi retired professional people who work together for the benefit of young people who are

### WHAT IS MENTORING?

*Mentoring is the development of a one on one relationship where a more experienced person helps a person needing information and direction to achieve their goals.*

*It's about something both simple and complex - two people of different ages and backgrounds talking together and learning from each other.*



*My son was not really confident in himself, not very outgoing to talk with people over the phone or to ask them any questions. Mentoring has given him the confidence and support he needed to begin calling workplaces and making enquiries about his future and his career directions. He was surprised by how helpful people would be. He has been exploring what is out there and now his aims are a lot higher.*

*Tell me and I'll forget  
Show me and I may not remember  
Involve me and I'll understand*

## Why Mentors for our Students?

Research shows that young people who leave school early are twice as likely to be unemployed at the age of 24 than those who have completed year 12. Mentors for our Students offers young people the opportunity to plan for their future careers and find a positive pathway into employment.

A mentor can highlight alternative pathways and open doors for new career opportunities which assist with the Australian Governments four key outcomes for skilling Australia for the future:

- Increasing school retention rates
- Addressing current skill shortages
- Utilising the valuable skills and knowledge of retired or semi-retired Australians
- Securing the workforce needs of the future

Mentors for our Youth offers young people the opportunity to plan for their future careers and find a positive pathway into employment.

A mentor can highlight alternative pathways and open doors for new opportunities.

## Become a Mentor

All it takes to become a Mentors for our Students Mentor, is a commitment to spend approximately an hour a week with your 'mentee' for 12 weeks

### WHAT CAN MENTORS DO?

- Listen
- Assist with goal setting
- Help students recognise their strengths
- Be a sounding board for ideas and problems
- Make contact with employers
- Suggest possible courses of action with career choices.

*My mentor is different from my mum or my friends. She's not a teacher and not family. She's like a friend.*

To support you as a mentor, The Mentors for our Students Program is offering a short course in mentoring. The course is free and the skills you gain will be invaluable to you as a mentor and may even prove useful in other areas of your life.

Topics covered in the mentoring course include:

- **conflict resolution**
- **effective listening**
- **mentor roles, rights and responsibilities**
- **employment and training opportunities**
- **confidentiality & Child Protection Legislation**