

Creating partnerships between industry, education and the community that develop positive futures for young people



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Supporting our Schools in 2019

With a new school year commencing, we at the LLEN are looking to continue to support our local schools to develop positive futures for our young people through our programs. We are ever-dependent and grateful for the support of many community organisations, volunteers and the generosity of local businesses who support our young people.

MATES Mentoring

We will be continuing to support schools with the MATES Mentoring Program by recruiting and training mentors.

mates
mentor assist target engage skills

In 2018 we expanded our MATES Mentor training, providing additional training for mentors who volunteer to work with young people with more complex needs. This training is provided free of charge to anyone in the community, regardless of whether they go on to mentor a young person. See more about the MATES Program on page 3.

VET Coordination

A new intake of students will shortly be commencing their Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses. We are seeking a new employee to coordinate the Wimmera Southern Mallee VET Cluster but, in the meantime, Vanessa O'Loughlin will be taking care of matters relating to the VET Cluster.

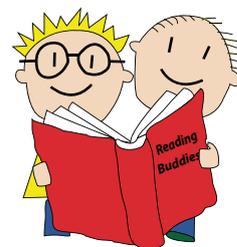
VET

An exciting initiative in the Vocational Education and Training space has been the inclusion of Certificate II in Health Services Support, offered by Federation University. This is good news for our community. The health sector is a major employer in our region and this new course, delivered locally, will offer a pathway to employment in an industry growth sector.

Students completing this course can pursue further studies in areas of nursing, paramedic or various fields of allied health care. There has already been a high level of interest in the course which may necessitate the running to two classes.

Reading Buddies

The Reading Buddies program is another initiative that relies on the generosity of volunteers. Reading buddies spend an hour a day for one or more mornings a week to listen to children read in a local primary school. We have had wonderful support for this program in the past, but we can always find a place for more volunteers. Reading buddies regularly report that they find the program highly enjoyable.



The program provides an extra level of support for students to develop their reading skills.

Anyone interested in volunteering to listen to children read can contact the LLEN office on 03 5381 0122.

Community Action Networks (CANs)

CAN meetings will be starting up again in term one. These network meetings bring together representatives from organisations, businesses and members of the community to provide support for local schools. Meeting dates will be set early in term one and dates will be posted on our website at <http://www.llen.com.au/cans/> as soon as the dates have been set.



These meetings are a great opportunity for support services personnel to meet with the principal and key staff of local schools. Anyone with an interest in supporting young people in their local community is welcome to attend.

CAN Meetings are held in Dimboola, Edenhope, Horsham, Murtoa, Nhill, and Warracknabeal. A CAN meeting to support Koorie young people is held in Horsham.

There are options for anyone in Horsham wishing to join the meetings in Nhill, Edenhope and Murtoa, to join the meetings via video-conferencing.

Farewell Mary and Melissa



Mary Bysouth



Melissa Powell

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN said farewell to Mary Bysouth in November 2018. Mary coordinated the MATES Mentoring program as well as providing support in the area of Structured Workplace Learning. Sam Flaherty has taken on the role of coordinating the MATES Mentoring program.

In January, we farewelled Melissa Powell. Melissa coordinated the Wimmera Southern Mallee VET Cluster and also provided support to the Structured Workplace Learning Program and Jump Start Program. Until a new VET Cluster coordinator is appointed, please direct all enquiries relating to VET to Vanessa O'Loughlin.

We wish Mary and Vanessa well in their new positions.

Welcome Millie



Millie Kemp

Millie Kemp is a familiar face at the LLEN office. She completed a Structured Workplace Learning placement with us in 2018, spending a day a week on placement experiencing the day-to-day workings of an office environment. During that time we got to know Millie and observed her excellent set of skills. By the end of her placement, we wanted to find a way to include her on our team on a permanent basis. We felt that Millie would have a lot to offer our workplace. Millie accepted an offer to take up an Administration Traineeship with us and commences on 29 January.

Position Vacant

Project officer

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN is looking for a confident, well organised 'people person' with strong communication skills. This position entails meeting with, and engaging, schools, training providers, community organisations and local businesses to improve the lives and education outcomes of the region's young people.

The successful applicant will be required to support the delivery of LLEN programs with a primary focus on:

1. The Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) program
2. The coordination of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Schools cluster across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

Full time, Fixed Term Contract (until 31 December 2019 – possible extension depending on funding)

Salary Package: \$54,000 – \$58,000 (plus superannuation)

Closing date for applications: 5.00 pm Tuesday 5th February, 2019. (Applications received after this time will not be considered.)

See more details and download a Position Description from the LLEN Website: <http://www.llen.com.au/employment/>

Everybody needs a MATE

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">mentoring program</p> <h1>mates</h1> <p>mentor assist target engage skills</p> <p>24 hours to change a life...</p> 	<p><i>The MATES Mentoring Program provides positive role models who mentor, assist, target, engage and enhance the skills and life experiences of young people.</i></p> <p><i>MATES matches students (Mentees) in school with a volunteer (Mentor) from the local community.</i></p> <p><i>Mentors and mentees catch up for one hour, once a fortnight for one year.</i></p> <h2>Who can be a Mentor?</h2> <p>We need volunteers who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ over the age of 18 ✓ have a genuine concern or interest in young people ✓ want to make a difference in a young person's life ✓ are able to spend one hour a fortnight with a young person for one year ✓ already have or are able to obtain a Working With Children check <p>1 hour a fortnight = 24 hours in a year That's all it takes to make a big difference in a young person's life.</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="color: red; margin: 0;">Mentors Wanted</h2> </div> <h3 style="color: red;">How to get involved</h3> <p>Find out more by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Visiting the Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Website ✓ Contacting the MATES coordinator at the WSMLLEN office, Phone: 03 53810122 ✓ Phone your school office <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: blue;">Find out more at www.llen.com.au/mates</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div> <p>MATES Mentoring Program Phone: 03 53810122 Email: info@llen.com.au</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE LLEN</p>  </div> </div>
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More, More, More... Mentors

‘The MATES Mentoring Program matched 60 young people with a volunteer mentor in 2018.’

For a very small investment in time, mentors can make a huge difference in the lives of young people. Mentors spend just one hour a fortnight for a year to offer friendship and support and to simply ‘be there’ for a young person.

In 2018, our 60 MATES Mentors contributed somewhere around 1,400 hours of time to support our young people during the year.

This is a wonderful contribution by our volunteers, but for every mentor we match with a mentee, we could easily find another 10 young people who would greatly benefit from having a mentor.

We constantly hear from our mentors that they find the MATES Mentoring Program to be highly rewarding. If you would like to make a difference in a young person's life and could commit to just one hour a

fortnight, please contact us to find out more.

Comprehensive training is provided for all of our mentors. To be a mentor to a young person in a local school, (MATES in schools) a basic level of training is required (1 Session of 2 hours). Additional training (Sessions 2 & 3) is required to mentor young people with more complex issues. Mentors are encouraged to undertake all three sessions before deciding if they would be prepared to mentor a young person with more complex needs.

TRAINING – 2019 Full Day

Mentors can attend 1 full day training event to complete all 3 training sessions.

The full day sessions run from 9:30am – 4:00pm

Dates Tuesday 19th February
 Friday 15th March
 Tuesday 2nd April

TRAINING 2019 – Session 1 (2 Hours)

Mentors can attend Session 1 of the MATES training which will be sufficient to mentor a young person in a local schools.

Dates Friday 2^{5th} January at 5.30pm
 Monday 18th February at 5.30pm
 Monday 11th March at 5.30pm
 Monday 1st April at 5.30pm

Structured Workplace Learning - support from local businesses

Secondary students across our region will be commencing Vocational Education and Training Courses and seeking Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements which are arranged during first term.

WSMLLEN assists students to find suitable work placements by sourcing work placement opportunities available in local businesses and listing them on the SWL online portal. (See <http://www.workplacements.education.vic.gov.au/lens/wsmllen/>)

Schools are becoming more and more dependent on local business communities to provide this vital component of the education program of secondary students.

Now is the time for businesses to consider offering a work placement.

Work placements can involve flexible hours. Usually students undertake a placement for one day a week for a school semester, with some students extending their placement for a whole year. Some students undertake their work placement five days a week for a 2-week block during school holidays.

SWL A great way to develop your future workforce

Offering a work placement can have some great benefits for employers. Employers are required to pay a minimum of only \$5 a day to the student. There is no tax



commitment and the student is fully covered by their school with insurance. There is no on-going commitment to the student after the completion of the work placement, but if employers find that the student is a good fit for their business they may offer employment. This was the case here at WSMLLEN. We offered an SWL placement in 2018 and found that our student had some excellent skills in IT and brought to our workplace a helpful perspective from a younger generation. We have now offered an Administration Traineeship for 2019.

Check out this
video clip!



<http://www.llen.com.au/programs/workplace-learning/>



Hosting a Structured
Workplace Learning
student is a great
opportunity for your
business.

If you could offer a work
placement for a student
in 2019, please contact us
at the LLEN Office on:
03 5381 0122
info@llen.com.au

YOU ARE INVITED.



On behalf of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's Good Sports Program, Wimmera Drug Action Taskforce and Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly you are invited to

Tackling Illegal Drugs Forum

Date: Wednesday 27 February 2019

Time: 7.00pm to 9pm

Location: Horsham RSL Conference Room,
McLachlan Street

About the forum

The Tackling Illegal Drugs forum will help sporting clubs prepare for drug-related issues, for if or when they occur.

- Connect with community organisations
- Meet likeminded clubs
- Address potential drug related issues



INSPIRING A HEALTHIER SPORTING NATION

**CLICK HERE
to register**

horshamtidforum.eventbrite.com.au

Contributions to News You Can Use

Anyone wishing to contribute news or information about events, is welcome to submit articles for inclusion in the WSMLLEN Newsletter. Articles can be forwarded to info@llen.com.au

WSMLLEN reserves the right not to include items deemed to be incompatible with the purpose of the LLEN.

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Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN is a recognised Gold Skilled Workplace with a majority of our current staff having completed the Youth Mental Health first aid training. We highly recommend YMHA training for everyone who works with young people.

To find out more about being a skilled MHFA workplace, or to apply for recognition for your organisation, go the Mental Health First Aid website:

<https://mhfa.com.au/cms/mental-health-first-aid-skilled-workplace-initiative>

The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Newsletter is sent electronically to over 300 people across the region.