

**mates** Mentoring Program will offer support and guidance for both the mentee and mentor and will do its best to ensure the success of the relationship.

For more information, please contact:  
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# mates

mentor assist target engage skills

## Our Mission

To provide positive role models who assist, target, engage and enhance the skills and life experiences of local young people.



[llen.com.au/mates](http://llen.com.au/mates)

## What exactly is mates?

**mates** is a Mentoring Program which has been designed as a model which is easy and effective for all schools to implement at very little cost.

**mates** matches students (mentees) in school with a volunteer (mentor) from the local community. In a changing world schools can't do it alone.

Communities have to work together to help support and nourish the variety of needs and capabilities of our young people. The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN encourages all schools to use their local community to establish wider support networks for their students. We can assist in establishing this mentoring program in your school.

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.

## What are the aims of mates?

The aims of the **mates** program are clearly contained in its acronym:

- mentor – to provide an additional positive role model in the lives of young people
- assist – to assist and extend the positive life experiences of young people
- target – to specifically target life and educational goals of young people
- engage – to engage young people more fully into their schools and local communities
- skills – to identify and enhance the skills of young people

## Who can get involved?

**M** **mates** draws on the strong support of the local community to be positive role models (mentors) for students (mentees).

**M** Mentors must be over 18 years old and meet eligibility criteria including getting a current Working with Children Check, if they don't already have one.

**M** The **mates** Mentoring Program matches a community volunteer with a student to serve as a one-to-one mentor.

**M** The mentor role is that of a friend, positive role model and guide.

**M** Mentors will meet with mentees twice a month for about 1 hour during school hours for a year and take personal interest in their growth and development.

**M** After three months the opportunity to catch up out of school may be offered but only when a permission form has been signed and agreed to by the mentor, mentee, Parents/Guardians and the school.

**M** Mentees must also meet eligibility criteria and are usually referred into the program by teachers. There is a screening process which means the mentees are matched up with the best suited mentor.

**M** The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN will happily organise all information sessions, training sessions and offer regular 'catch-ups' with schools to ensure the ongoing success of the program.

**M** Schools will need to nominate a **mates** coordinator at their school who will be responsible for the school organisational components such as nomination of students, matching mentors to mentees, venues for training etc.