



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Central Grampians LLEN currently operates MATES in the following schools:

- Ararat College
- Ararat 800 Primary School
- Ararat North Primary School
- Ararat West Primary School
- Buangor Primary School
- Concongella Primary School
- Marnoo Primary School
- Skene Street Specialist School
- Stawell 502 Primary School
- St Patricks Primary School
- Stawell West Primary School

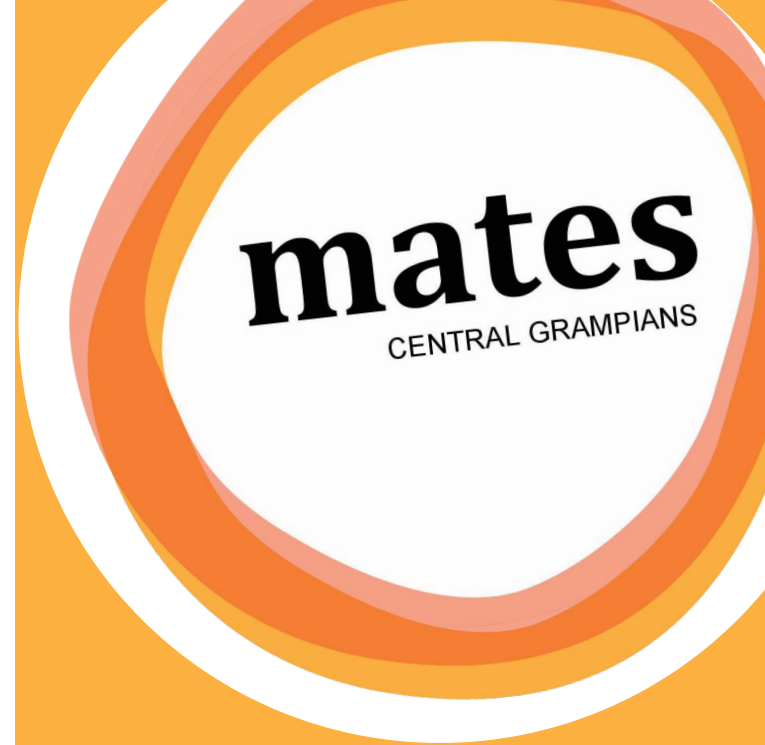


**WANT TO BECOME A MATES
COMMUNITY CHAMPION?**

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**COMMUNITY
CHAMPIONS
MODEL**

Local leaders mentoring
local students





WHAT IS MATES?

The MATES youth mentoring program is a model that was originally developed by Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN. In 2021, Central Grampians LLEN introduced MATES as a pilot program at three schools in the Northern Grampians Shire. The program has since expanded to Ararat and is implemented in 10 schools across our region.

MATES matches nominated students from each school with volunteer mentors from the community. Mentors provide the young people with an additional support system outside of their home and school lives.

WHAT DO MENTORS DO?

Mentors are positive role models who assist, target, engage and enhance the experiences of local young people. During their one-hour meetings, mentors and students share their interests, play games and take part in fun activities.

THE COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS MODEL

MATES Community Champions are organisations that provide their staff with flexible work arrangements to be able to mentor a student in the MATES program during business hours. Mentor meetings take one hour per fortnight for the duration of the school year, excluding school holidays.

There are two ways that an organisation can manage staff volunteering in the program:

1. Donating staff hours to the program.
2. Allowing staff to make up the time spent volunteering, outside their usual working hours.

MENTOR ELIGIBILITY

Mentors must:

- be over 18 years of age
- obtain a current Working with Children Check and National Police Check
- sign and adhere to the CGLLEN Mentors Code of Conduct & Confidentiality Agreement
- be respectful and open-minded
- have an encouraging attitude
- be willing to help young people achieve their goals
- be patient, supportive and a good listener

PROCESS TO BECOME A MENTOR

1. Complete an expression of interest.
2. Attend an intake interview.
3. Complete required paperwork and a two-hour free training session.
4. Attend a 20-minute match meeting with student.

THE BENEFITS

MATES has been shown to have significant positive impacts on participating students, including improved attendance at school, better mental health and increased confidence.

There are also many advantages to mentoring for this rewarding program.

FOR MENTORS:

- Access networking opportunities
- Gain work experience and learn new skills
- Increase your connection to the community
- Gain a sense of fulfillment from doing something meaningful
- Develop greater connections with colleagues

FOR EMPLOYERS:

- Strengthen your organisation's public image and connection to the community
- Raise the profile of your organisation amongst prospective employees
- Increase the job satisfaction of your staff
- Improve employee confidence, self-esteem and morale
- Strengthen your organisation's internal culture
- Gain business promotion through CGLLEN networks (newsletters, website, social media and annual advertisement)

Haski-Leventhal (2020). Corporate volunteering: Implications for policy and practice. Volunteering Research Papers (National Strategy for Volunteering Research Working Group) 3-11.

Volunteering Victoria (2014). The Business Case for Corporate Volunteering 3-18.