

# FREQUENTLY

# asked questions



## HOW LONG DOES A MENTOR HAVE TO COMMIT TO THE PROGRAM?

Mentors and students are required to commit to the program for one school year and meet for a minimum of one hour per fortnight.

## HOW LONG DOES A STUDENT STAY IN THE PROGRAM?

Students participating in the MATES Program have been nominated by their schools. They typically join the program for one year, however this can be extended at the school's request.

## WHAT ARE THE REASONS STUDENTS ARE NOMINATED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MATES PROGRAM?

There are many reasons a student may be in the MATES program. Not all students are disadvantaged or disengaged. They may come from large families and get little one-on-one attention at home, or they could simply be shy and lacking confidence.

## HOW DO YOU BECOME A MENTOR?

An electronic expression of interest form is available on the Central Grampians LLEN website. Alternatively, you can call our MATES Coordinator on 0432 204 840 to discuss the first steps.

## WHAT'S MY ROLE AS A MENTOR?

Mentors act as positive role models and provide students with a consistent source of support outside of their home and school lives. You will spend one hour each fortnight with your student at their school, engaging in conversation and fun activities.

## WHAT DO YOU DO AT MATES?

You will never be bored at MATES! All our schools are provided with a MATES Activity Box and a Book and Puzzle Crate which are filled with games, craft supplies, and other fun things mentors and students can do together. You may like to introduce your student to hobbies you enjoy, such as cooking, gardening, knitting or woodwork, or embark on a special project. Our MATES Coordinator can also source additional activities and supplies if there is something specific your student would like to do.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THE MATCH ISN'T WORKING?

We work hard to ensure a successful match between mentors and students, however if your match isn't working, you should speak to the MATES Coordinator for advice. If necessary, we can re-match you with another student.

## CAN I MENTOR OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS/GROUNDS?

No. All meetings with your student must be within school grounds during school hours. You cannot have any dealing with your student outside of official MATES sessions.

## WHO CAN BECOME A MENTOR?

To be eligible to mentor for the MATES program, you must be over 18 years of age and willing to complete our mentor training session. You must also obtain a current Working with Children Check and National Police Check and agree to adhere to the CGLLEN Mentors Code of Conduct & Confidentiality Agreement.

## WHAT DAYS AND TIMES CAN I MENTOR?

Your mentoring day and time must be on a weekday, within school hours and ideally will remain the same for the entire 12 months. You can let us know a timeslot that best suits you and we will work with the school to schedule it.

## WHAT SUPPORT IS PROVIDED TO MENTORS?

Our MATES Coordinator is always available to assist you with any questions or concerns you have about the program. We also have a *CGLLEN Mentor Community* that provides free support, information and training opportunities to all our valued MATES and TAC L2P Program mentors. As part of the initiative, mentors have exclusive access to events, including personal development sessions, guest speakers, coffee catch ups and celebrations. Mentors are welcome to attend as many activities as they like to connect with fellow volunteers and boost their skills, knowledge and confidence as a mentor.

## HOW DOES MY ORGANISATION BECOME A MATES COMMUNITY CHAMPION?

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.

Organisations can donate staff hours to the program or allow them to make up the time spent volunteering, outside their usual working hours. For further details, or to express your interest in becoming a MATES Community Champion workplace, please contact our MATES Coordinator on 0432 204 840.



## CONTACT US

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