

## Vocational Mentoring Exchange Community Partnerships Project

**A rare opportunity for volunteer vocational mentors from Melbourne's north to support socially/economically disadvantaged young people on their career transition journey.**

The INLLEN has secured funding to promote the benefits of vocational mentoring and build the capacity of four northern community agencies to support young people's successful transition from education to employment in the region.

During July to early September, the Vocational Mentoring Exchange (INLLEN) will recruit, screen and train 15 volunteer vocational mentors to be placed with one of the four community agency partners. Weekly/fortnightly mentoring sessions will take place online or at the agency setting (COVID restrictions allowing) and run from September to November. Training will be provided and mentors will also draw from their career and life experience to work 1:1 or in small groups with mentees. Mentoring session activities will include goal setting, building aspirations and transferable skills, strengthening work readiness, and understanding workplace expectations. An evaluation session will follow in December.

### VME Overview

The aim of the VME is to build a sustainable bank of mentors (100) who can support young people across the region on their career pathway. Since its inception in 2020, the Exchange has developed the Mentoring Matters schools program and recruited mentors for the Youth Enterprise Hub schools program. Both focus on supporting socially/economically disadvantaged VCAL students. The Exchange is now developing four community partnerships enabling access to 15 volunteer vocational mentors.

**This unique resource for the inner north of Melbourne will bring together a pool of volunteers with diverse and wide-ranging working lives and lived experience to support young people's (16-25 years) transition to further education, training or employment. In the current climate of extreme youth unemployment, an opportunity to directly connect young people with local industry is critical.**

The Vocational Mentoring Exchange was conceived in 2014 through the work of the Inner Northern Youth Employment Taskforce and the Inner North Community Foundation (INCF). A 2016 Research Report identified that "available mentoring programs were predominantly of small scale, had a tenuous funding base, lacked scale to make a significant impact, and were often gone within a few years after commencing." A sustainable funding model is therefore critical to the success and longevity of the Exchange.

### Mentor Requirements

Volunteer mentors must be over 18 years of age, have a current Working With Children's Check and are available for training, induction and weekly/fortnightly mentoring sessions.

### Contact

For more information about this opportunity to make a real difference in a young person's life, please contact:

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