

Position description	Youth Mentor
Department	Sparkways Mentoring
Reports to	Program Coordinators
Location	Western Suburbs LGA's of Wyndham, Melton, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and City of Melbourne
Duration	12 months plus screening time

Sparkways

Sparkways is a social purpose organisation, delivering access to early learning, mentoring and supported employment pathways for the vulnerable and those at risk of or experiencing disadvantage.

Sparkways Vision and Values

Sparkways vision is to create a meaningful difference to the lives of children, young people and families who are experiencing disadvantage.

Sparkways has three key values:

1. Involve and be involved in our communities
2. Be loyal, dedicated and positive
3. Make ideas happen

Sparkways is committed to working alongside people to support building capacity, resilience and independence. Sparkways prides itself on being a trusted and collaborative partner with a passion for discovering new ways of doing things, which are responsive to social need.

Child Safety

Sparkways is a child safe organisation. Child safety is a critical aspect of all roles and responsibilities in the organisation. All employees must fully read, understand and ensure they work within the bounds of the child safety policy and code of conduct.

Sparkways promotes the rights of all children to participate, have purpose, and be protected from harm. Sparkways has a zero tolerance of any behaviours or attitudes that might cause harm to children.

About our Mentoring Program

Our mentoring program aims to provide young people aged 7-20 with positive experiences and relationships at pivotal moments in their lives. It is designed to help young people flourish by connecting them with a positive role model, who they can trust to provide social support, friendship and encouragement.

The young person and their mentor catch up at least once a fortnight for a minimum of two hours, over a 12 month period. During this time, the match is fully supported by our Program Coordinators and the young people are encouraged to set goals, try out new things and, most importantly, have fun.

In developing a stable and trusting relationship with a mentor, young people are given the crucial support and encouragement they need to develop their own sense of independence, resilience, and self-confidence.

Personal Attributes

Our mentors come from all walks of life and we welcome anyone willing to make a difference in their community. While there are no formal qualifications needed to become a volunteer mentor, we do look for some specific qualities:

- A high level of passion and commitment for working with young people.
- Patience and a willingness to listen.
- Understanding and supportive.
- Friendly and respectful.
- Willing to learn new things and grow with your mentee.
- Able to commit for the program period of 12 months
- Willingness to mentor a young person from one of the listed Local Government Areas of Wyndham, Melton, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley or City of Melbourne

Mentor Screening Process

Every mentor is carefully screened to ensure they can provide a safe and respectful environment for our young people. Our screening process is compulsory for all mentors and includes the following steps:

- Interview with 2 Program Coordinators
- Completion of a Police Check and Working with Children Check
- 2 References
- Attending 2 training sessions conducted over 2 consecutive evenings - 2 ½ hrs each session

We screen our mentors in clusters and match them to their mentees at a group Mentoring Match Event, designed to allow our mentors and young people to feel part of a community and meet other participants in the program.

Disclaimer: This position description is subject to review and may change in accordance with Sparkways operational, service and consumer requirements