



## *The Smith Family's* **Tertiary Mentoring Program**



*everyone's family*

### **Mentoring – an investment in their future, and yours.**

The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program invests in the education of disadvantaged Australian youth. Being a mentor is a great way to contribute – to your own development as well as your student's.

Our *Learning for Life* program helps students from disadvantaged families participate more fully in the education process.

The tertiary *Learning for Life* scholarship program supports university studies through a \$2,000 scholarship per year towards textbooks and other university expenses, and through our tertiary Mentoring program

#### *The mutual benefits of tertiary Mentoring*

The tertiary Mentoring program is designed to support the transition of university students into university life and the work/career transition. *Learning for Life* Scholarship students in the 1st year of university are matched with a career mentor who offer an alternative avenue of support for these young people from disadvantaged backgrounds where it is not always possible to draw upon parental experience and skill in all aspects of their lives.

Mentoring is also increasingly recognized in the business community as a great personal development exercise for the mentor. It helps develop interpersonal communication, relationship skills, and contributes to development of well-rounded professionals.

#### *The role of a mentor*

##### **Mentors provide:**

- Support and encouragement, helping students to develop self-esteem and confidence.
- The benefit of experience in tertiary study and university systems.
- Educational and career advice in the relevant field.
- Access to professional networks.

A good mentor should be friendly, supportive, non-judgmental and sensitive to the needs of young people, a good communicator, and committed to the role of education in unlocking opportunities for young Australians.

#### *Mentoring a university student: What is my commitment?*

The mentoring relationship will be for the duration of the student's university studies (usually 3- 5 years).

##### **As a mentor you commit to :**

- Submit a completed application form.
- Attend an Interview and provide referee details to support your application
- Attend a training session facilitated by The Smith Family at the beginning of the program.
- Recommend meeting with your student at least twice per semester, and contacting them every four weeks by phone or e-mail.
- Complete a questionnaire each year.
- Maintain regular contact with The Smith Family to discuss any issues which may arise.

#### *Next Steps*

Before you register your interest it is important to consider the following:

- Please, think carefully about whether you would be a good mentor.
- It is against the law for persons prohibited from unsupervised contact with children and young persons to register for this voluntary position.
- If you are matched with a student you will need to give The Smith Family consent for a police check.

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#### *Student comments*

*"The scholarship has changed my life. You believe in me, my mentor believes in me and now I believe in me..."*

*"It was always good to know that there was someone to talk to."*

#### *Mentor comment*

*"It's been incredibly rewarding to see the benefits that a little financial support and mentoring can bring to someone's life."*

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