



Parent Info

KIDS HOPE AUS Mentoring Program

INTRODUCING KIDS HOPE AUS

KIDS HOPE AUS is an early intervention, school-based mentoring program that has been operating in Australia since 2004. The program aims to develop emotional and social resilience in children, and so enhance their capacity to learn. The model is built on a long-term partnership between a local school and a local church. Carefully screened and trained mentors from the church meet the children for one hour per week at the school. Over 10,000 children have been matched with mentors in primary schools all around Australia. The results show is the program changes lives.

**ONE MENTOR +
ONE CHILD =
ONE BRIGHT FUTURE**

KIDS HOPE AUS is a registered 'Quality Assured Program' with the Australian Youth Mentoring Network, and it meets or exceeds the national mentoring benchmarks. An evaluation by Griffith University concluded that, "**KIDS HOPE AUS** is reliable and easily implemented – the clear program of choice for many schools. It is valued by parents and, most importantly, it is making a difference to child wellbeing"

"I think it's a very crucial role that they're playing in my kids' lives. Because I'm of a firm belief that it takes a community to raise a child..."

Parent



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How are mentors screened?

Mentors must undergo the State legislated checks for working with children. They also complete a comprehensive application booklet, attend an interview and provide two references. The church leadership must also provide personal character references for each mentor.

How are mentors trained?

KIDS HOPE AUS provides comprehensive, compulsory training for all program coordinators and mentors. Training topics include; child protection policies and guidelines, understanding children's needs, confidentiality and ages and stages in child development. Ongoing training and support is also provided for coordinators and mentors.

RESPECTING THE SECULAR NATURE OF EDUCATION

All mentors are trained to respect the secular nature of education. There are strict guidelines about using any religious content or materials used during the mentoring hour. The focus is purely on the social and emotional development of the child through the mentoring relationship.

The Power of One-to-One Mentoring



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is my child being referred to the program?

Children can be referred for many reasons. Usually the decision to refer a child is made by a teacher who believes that the child will greatly benefit from having an allocated mentor. Most parents are pleased to know that their child will receive additional support.

Where do the child and mentor meet?

The mentor meets with the child in a viewable space within the school, as identified by the teacher or principal. The mentors don't work with the child in the classroom.

What do the mentor and child do together?

Mentors and children plan their time together to include things like craft, educational games, cooking, sport, reading or academic work set by teachers.

Will my child miss out on important work?

Teachers may provide resources for any academic work to be completed during the mentoring hour. This may be revision, a project or reading, spelling or maths.

Can I contact my child's mentor?

You can contact the mentor through the school. Many KIDS HOPE AUS programs conduct events at the school where parents can meet the mentors. You also can contact the school to arrange to meet the mentor.

Will my child receive a mentor as soon as I give consent?

Mentors are carefully matched with students to gain the best outcomes. Your child will be matched with a mentor as soon as an appropriate mentor is screened

and trained. Sometimes there is a waiting list for children to be matched with mentors

How do I tell my child about being referred to the KIDS HOPE AUS mentoring program?

The opportunity to be included in the program should be communicated in a very positive way. Schools often say they wish every child had a mentor! You can describe the program as providing an adult friend who will play games and do activities with them and encourage them in everything they do at school.

Is this program effective?

The KIDS HOPE AUS program has been evaluated by Griffith University. Results show that mentored children have significant increases in self-esteem and confidence. Children are better adjusted socially and emotionally, which in turn, can positively impact their academic progress at school.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MENTORS

KIDS HOPE AUS is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children in the program. We support the rights of the child and will act to ensure a child-safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants. Mentors must:

- Be a positive role model
- Follow KIDS HOPE AUS policies and guidelines as described in the Child Protection Policy
- Ensure that they meet with the child in an observable space in the school
- Treat all children with respect
- Observe all KIDS HOPE AUS training guidelines
- Focus on skill building and relationship building
- Respect the secular nature of Government Education
- Respect the privacy of the child and family by maintaining confidentiality

Go to the following page on our website to view our general policy.

www.kidshopeaus.org.au/about-us/policy

KIDS HOPE AUS

Phone: 03 9780 4823

Email: admin@kidshopeaus.org.au