

A LETTER FROM A SCHOOL VICE PRINCIPAL

Our school has been involved with Kids Hope for a number of years now and we plan to continue it for years to come. We could not speak more highly of the mentor program.

The program requires very little organisation and management as Kids Hope does the majority of the work. The hardest part for the school is trying to choose the students to participate in the program, as this program would benefit so many students.

Trying to find an hour a week in each student's schedule has not been a problem. The mentors are very flexible so the teachers find a time that will be of most benefit to the student.

If we find a student needs to catch up on schoolwork during their mentoring time, the mentor will spend some of the hour assisting the student to finish their schoolwork. We find that our students really enjoy completing their work with their mentors and benefit greatly from the one-on-one support.

We have absolutely no concerns with the level of screening and training of the Kids Hope mentors. Each mentor has a Working with Children's Check and have attended interviews before commencing the program. They are also involved in ongoing training to keep up to date with policies and guidelines.

We have developed a fantastic relationship with all the Kids Hope mentors who attend our school. We see them as another staff member who are always welcome in our school. The mentors come well prepared and organise a range of different activities. Such activities include, board games, outside games, cooking, craft and art.

We have other wellbeing support for our students but we find the Kids Hope program is that extra support for students who need that regular one on one support. We find the program to be quite unique in the sense that these students have a one-hour session every week with their mentor.

Our students have formed great relationships with their mentors and look forward to their weekly sessions. The improvement we have seen in our students have been outstanding.

One student started the program in Grade 1 and continued with the same mentor until she graduated in Grade 6. The relationship the student and mentor formed was so great to see. We saw massive improvements in this student's confidence, resilience and work ethic.

The mentors go above and beyond, attending graduations, school concerts and special persons days. Kids Hope is without a doubt one of our most valued programs.

We hope to continue to be involved in the program as long as possible and would recommend every school to get involved in the program if it is offered to them.

Brianna Munro

Vice Principal and Welfare Officer
Pentland Primary School

WHAT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ARE SAYING

We are completely indebted to the church for the fantastic mentoring program (Kids Hope) which has given so many children opportunities for recognition and friendship that would not normally be possible for a school to give. This program is the envy of every Primary school in this State and I have not come across a mentoring program in all the schools in which I have been Principal (approx. 11) that comes anywhere near the efficiency and professional outreach of KH. Thank you from the entire school community for your HUGE impact on our whole structure. – **Mr Bryant, Principal (WA)**

My observations from afar - that each child has warmed greatly to their mentor since starting. They eagerly await the visit and talk positively about it afterwards. Even if the children are having a less than perfect day, they have gone to mentoring and made the most of the time. The mentors too have warmed significantly and adjusted to the children they work with. They have realised that it is not an easy path for some and they have adjusted accordingly to establish and maintain the close relationship with the child. – **Murray Cox, Principal (NSW)**



You honestly wouldn't believe the impact Kids Hope mentors have on our kids and the teachers often talk about them. It's a pity I don't record all the things I hear because everyone here is very passionate about Kids Hope and the difference it makes to our kids. In this morning's staff meeting we were talking about our school and how much student welfare we do... your mentors are such a big part of what makes our school just awesome. I have been thinking about what is really important and thought you should all know how important Kids Hope is! – **School Principal (NSW)**

Our School was one of the first schools to have access to the Kids Hope program thanks to the dedication and commitment of our partner church. I thank them for providing such positive adult role models for students who need what they provide. It is in my opinion one of the most successful community partnerships happening within our education system and I am pleased that it is being implemented in schools all over Australia. – **School Principal (VIC)**



The program is an integral part of our school. It is interwoven in the fabric of our school. For one hour a week the mentors make our students feel special and important. For one hour a week another person cares about them. Mentoring helps young people succeed in school, work, and life. Thank you for giving our kids hope. – **School Principal (VIC)**



This program changes lives and you will probably never know just how precious this gift is to our young people. – School Principal