



Title: NextPath Continuous Learning

Category: Education

Club Name: Campbelltown Catholic Club

Entrant: Graeme Derrig

- 1. Provide an outline of the program, project or cause that addresses each of the following aspects:**
 - a. The program/project/cause objectives**
 - b. The support the club provided, i.e. was it financial, in-kind, staff volunteers or use of club facilities?**
 - c. A timeline of activities/events**
 - d. Any developments made since implementation (for example: if the support spans multiple years, how has the program grown? Will the club provide support again? Will the program be enhanced in the future?)**

NextPath Continuous Learning Program

Mater Dei are a registered charity who work together with families and carers to provide innovative and contemporary education and therapy services to babies, children and young adults with an Intellectual Disability or developmental delay.

Established in 1910 The Mater Dei School is the oldest and original educational offering of Mater Dei. Over time Mater Dei have expanded their support to include a range of programs targeted at specific segments. NextPath Continuous Learning is the latest innovative program to be delivered by Mater Dei.

Goals

- The goal of NextPath Continuous Learning (NPCL) is to offer a program providing the same opportunities to young adults diagnosed with an intellectual disability as all other young adults leaving school.
- To offer all young adults an opportunity to engage in ongoing learning or become involved in purposeful activities following their school graduation. It was apparent to the founders of NPCL that young adults with higher needs for support to continue building skills, actually had the least opportunities provided by our community. It was envisaged that NextPath Continuous Learning (NPCL) could fill this gap and offer a unique program targeting post school continuous learning.



- To provide young adults enrolled at NPCL the opportunity to work toward achieving self-determined goals both personal and work related in a safe and nurturing environment. Some such goals relate to further development of their communication skills, numeracy and literacy, social awareness and job readiness skills. It became apparent very early that work readiness skills and workplace learning opportunities rated very high as goals the young individuals wanted to achieve. This program provides the opportunity to engage in further learning both practically by attending workplace learning in a business setting whilst also being supported in learning and developing all other skills related to job readiness within a classroom setting. The young adult is allowed choice and control of their learning with support.

Expected outcomes/ objectives of NPCL:

- To produce young adults graduating from NextPath Continuous Learning having achieved their self-determined goals.
- To have provided the tools needed to help young adults work toward self-determined further education or job prospects and independence where possible.
- To have provided our young adults with positive outcomes which will ultimately help them build skills to achieve goals around potential employment.
- To produce Young adults who feel more comfortable in their own abilities to communicate their needs and desires within the community in which they live.
- To help young adults with a disability find their place in society, providing them with tools to continue their ongoing learning and self-development.

Support the club provided

The support Campbelltown Catholic Club provided for NextPath Continuous Learning (NPCL) was a combination of financial and in-kind.

The Clubs financial support played a significant role in the successful launch of the program in 2018. The ongoing financial support helps sustain and build the program year on year. Total financial support for Mater Dei during 2020/21 was \$75,000.

Arguable more important than the financial support was the Workplace Learning environment Campbelltown Catholic Club is able to provide.



Mater Dei are acutely aware that many young adults attend NextPath to gain workplace learning skills. The program is about placing young adults with host employers to help them learn, practice and reflect on a variety of work readiness and transferrable skills necessary across all workplaces. NextPath Continuous Learning staff work with young adults' helping them to identify and practice these transferrable workplace skills. The business the young adult is placed in works with the young adult to develop these transferrable workplace skills along with skills particular to their industry.

With the rapid growth in number of participants at NPCL and most of the young adults enrolled setting goals relating to WPL opportunities the need to find community businesses willing and able to offer the young adults WPL opportunities has proven to be quite a challenge.

Campbelltown Catholic Club was able to directly assist by expanding WPL opportunities within the Club. The Campbelltown Catholic Club alignment with the NPCL cause and Community standing also encouraged other local business to support the program with WPL opportunities. This increase of support helps the young adults experience a wider range of jobs that may be available to them.

Timeline

2018: NPCL commenced with 6 participants most desiring WPL opportunities. This number doubled within the first year of the program.

2019: NPCL had 35 young adults enrolled, it became acutely obvious in 2019 than more community support would be needed for this program to thrive. Campbelltown Catholic Club was approached by the Workplace Learning Team (WPL) at NPCL seeking additional opportunities for young adults to gain work experiences across all divisions of the club.

2020: NPCL had 48 young adults enrolled in the program.

2021: NPCL had 53 young adults enrolled in the program.

2022: NPCL has 64 young adults enrolled in the program.

Developments made since implementation

As the program grew in popularity all Campbelltown Catholic Club Department Managers were encouraged to support the program by offering a WPL opportunity in their areas of expertise. Support quickly extended to multiple areas including:



- Maintenance and gardening
- Hospitality
- Front of house
- Concierge
- Golf Club (green maintenance)

The decision to host a NPCL student requires a significant commitment from the hosting organisation. NPCL young adult participants are likely to require a higher level of supervision and guidance when participating in work practices within a business setting. This calls for dedication of the staff who interact with and support our young adults in the workplace. All Catholic Club staff play a role in embracing NPCL participants and welcoming them into the Catholic Club team.

Campbelltown Catholic Clubs support for the program and standing in the local Community has also encouraged other local business to come on board with WPL opportunities. This increase of support helps the young adults experience a wider more diverse range of types of jobs that may be available to them.

2. Provide a brief insight into why this program, project or cause was supported by the club.

In your answer, summarise:

- How the project, program or cause was first presented to the club. For example, did a member present it to the Board or Executive team, was it part of a ClubGRANTS submission, did it come from a local business or the community based on a need, was a survey conducted to identify areas of community need, etc.**
- Why it was important to the club to support this community need.**

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3. Provide an outline of the positive impact the club's contribution had on the community.

The most important part of the NextPath Continuous Learning (NPCL) program is to provide purpose and meaning to the lives of the participating individuals. It is obvious to staff working with young adults from NPCL the days the young adults have their Work Place Learning (WPL) experience. The young adults come dressed and ready for work, they feel included and a special part of a team at the Campbelltown Catholic Club or other supporting community businesses. They come with anticipation pride and a sense of excitement for what they might learn and the interactions they will have with supporting staff.



The best example of the positive impact and success of this partnership can be narrowed down to one young adult's WPL experience.

A young adult placed in a WPL opportunity at the Campbelltown Catholic Club bistro was able to learn both in a practical way and also through daily interactions with co-workers what it was like to work within this industry. The young adult grew in confidence and ability with support and extended his WPL opportunity. It became apparent that the young adult had a passion for this type of hospitality work and was subsequently offered a position at the club. This young adult has since graduated from NPCL and is leading an independent life still working within the hospitality area. The WPL opportunity provided to this particular young adult, and now his job at the Club has offered this young adult the chance to live and lead a productive, purposeful and independent life (as independent as possible for the individual). The young adult has a work family to which he belongs.

The opportunity provided to all participants of NPCL through this partnership allows the young adults with an intellectual disability an opportunity to become active community members accepted and with purpose. Through support of this program the Club has helped young adults identify areas that interest them for future employment. The participation by the Club in this program has provided a practical element to the young adults learning and development.

This program has seen some young adults leave NPCL in pursuit of further education in the chosen field of interest to them.

For example: A young man provided with a WPL opportunity at the Club in the hospitality area decided to change his focus for future work and study from business to hospitality. His opportunity for WPL in the café at the Club helped this individual decide on his future career path. Another young adult provided with a WPL opportunity with the outdoor maintenance team has solidified his desire to pursue work in this field. And yet another young man given a WPL opportunity with the green keeper team at the Campbelltown Golf Club was able to develop skills necessary to continue on his search for his ideal job as a green keeper.

The Club has been paramount and continues to be paramount in their journeys and the journeys of future participants

4. Add any credits here (optional).

5. Supporting material:

- *To request copies of the supporting documents, please email events@clubsnsw.com.au*

TELL US
YOUR
STORY

