



Title: Project Educate helping young people achieve goals

Category: Education

Club Name: Club Central Hurstville

Entrant: Kylie Di Cesare

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?)**

a. the program/project/cause objectives:

Project Educate supports 10 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to re-engage in learning in an alternative education setting. Engagement is a key factor in producing equitable social and employment outcomes for young people as well as being a protective factor for wellbeing. By providing the life-long benefit of education, we are actively able to try and help disadvantaged young people avoid poverty, homelessness and unemployment.

Objectives:

1. Re-engage in learning and education – this is assessed by attendance at Project Educate, Completion of Year 10 gaining a ROSA (Record of School Achievement)
2. Increased Achieve and Skills development – Completion of all lessons, mastery courses, cultural awareness and activities, Work Readiness programs
3. Increased connections to services – Young people will be connected to services for wellbeing and support. The youth support worker will work with the young people to identify and help with any areas not just schooling that they may be facing and give them the connections they need.
4. Increased confidence, resilience and wellbeing – Professional judgement and surveys are used with young people to capture increased confidence etc.
5. Improved school attendance – daily roles are maintained and the youth support worker works with the young people if attendance is low. A really good example is a young person from last year who is first term had attendance of 51% to term 4 having 91% with 64 days straight attendance.
6. Increased Safety – We are a wrap around service with a specialised housing area to support homeless youth. When a young person is in safe housing there is a reduction in involvement in crime, increased resilience and confidence.

b. the support the club provided, i.e. was it financial, in-kind, staff volunteers or use of club facilities?
The club provided financial support for the education project. This takes place in a facility close to Club Central Hurstville, which our team spent time helping to repaint when it first opened in 2018.

c. a timeline of activities/events.

The timeline for enrolment in the alternative learning can be different for every young person as it involves a high level of support from the Project Youth team to liaise with the school and Department of Education. Once enrolled, the young person is provided with wrap around services within Project Youth based on the services' 28 years of experience in supporting young people with complex needs who face significant disadvantage. The ultimate aim is to provide whatever support across educational, social, emotional and practical areas so that the young person is able to achieve the required attendance and completion of ROSA to complete year 9 & 10.

The funding received supports Project Educate for 12 months. The school runs 4 days per week in the normal school year. Students have a graduation and Formal and if funding permits excursions each term. Last year the students did a Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb as part of the program and looked at history in Sydney's the Rocks area.

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? etc).

Over the past five years, Club Central has been supporting Project Youth to deliver education and employment programs to support young people who are at significant disadvantage in the St George & Sutherland Shires. The program has transitioned in that time from TrYangle program which encompassed education, employment & training elements. Project Educate is in its third year of funding with Club Central . The program started with 1 student and has grown last year to full capacity of 10 students. The current level of two staff to 10 students allows the hands on wrap around support that the young people need.

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

In your answer, summarise:

- a. 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.**

- b. Why it was important to the club to support this community need.**

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Club Central Hurstville and Menai have supported Project Youth since 2015. The relationship was established through Club Central Menai as the youth service is located next to the club premises. When Project Youth was provided with an opportunity to move into a Hurstville premises and open a youth centre, Club Central staff volunteered to help paint and clean the old church that was being renovated. The Project Educate program was born and was a natural fit for Club Central to provide support for at risk young people in the area.

b) Why it was important to the club to support this community need.

Club Central has a long history of funding programs that support young people. From literacy and numeracy with Learning Links and the Parachute Mental Health program through the Sebastian Foundation right through to support of local sporting groups, we prioritise projects that help support the next generation of community members to have the best chance possible at a happy, healthy and productive life.

Although considered to be areas with high socio-economic levels, there is still a large number of young people suffering from disadvantage or at risk in the St George & Sutherland Shire areas. This is why it is important to Club Central to maintain our support of programs that deliver positive opportunities, support education and wellbeing in our community.

In 2022, some of the Club Central team attended the graduation ceremony at Project Youth for the young people that we supported through the year. This was an uplifting and inspiring experience, that became quite emotional for all attending. It was fantastic for the team to see first hand the positive impact that achieving their RoSA and graduating had on the 10 young people who we funded.

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

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Through this funding relationship, young people have been empowered. The funding gives at-risk young people the opportunity to develop leadership and teamwork skills, which help increase their sense of self esteem and empowerment.

In addition the funding helps provide an inclusive and supportive environment for the at risk young people to connect with others who may be facing similar challenges. It also offers a variety of educational and skill-building programs, such as workshops and training sessions, which helped to equip at-risk youth with the tools they need to succeed in life like job readiness programs and practical living skills.

The program enables young people to work with teachers, mentors and support workers as positive role models who provided guidance, support, and encouragement as they navigate personal and professional challenges.

At the conclusion of the program, students reported feeling better connected to services and community. They reported feeling more confidence after achieving their qualifications, feeling safe in a space that is inclusive and supportive and healthy by being provided with guidance and support with food for breakfast and lunch.

As a result of their involvement with the club-funded program, many at-risk youth experienced improved academic performance, stronger relationships, and better mental and physical health. Ultimately there is evidence that the club's financial contribution has a positive impact on the entire community, helping to reduce crime and social problems, and promoting a more positive and supportive environment for all community members.

4. Add any credits here (optional).

Karen Tsoumbaras, Education, Training & Support Manager at Project Youth

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5. Supporting material:

- 4 X photos