VOLUNTEERING AT
PROJECT YOUTH

‘We believe all young people, regardless of the disadvantage they may face, deserve the opportunity to thrive’

www.projectyouth.org.au
Project Youth acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge their living culture and continuing connection to the land on which we work. We recognise that this always was and always will be Aboriginal land and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.
At Project Youth we believe all young people, regardless of the disadvantage they face, deserve the opportunity to thrive. We work with young people 12-25 across Sutherland Shire, Georges River and Bayside areas offering programs to be connected, safe, achieving and healthy. Our work is based on trauma informed and relational approaches, as well as being delivered collectively with partner organisations and the community. We have developed a 5-year strategy which builds on our 27 years of service to young people and details our ambitious plans. You can access the strategy and our annual reports at www.projectyouth.org.au

**OUR VISION**

A future where all young people can thrive

**OUR PURPOSE**

Creating opportunities for young people 12-25 to determine their own future

**OUR OUTCOMES**

- **Connecting**  Sense of belonging and connection
- **Safe**  Free from violence and harm
- **Healthy**  Mental and physical well-being
- **Achieving**  Access to opportunities and development

**OUR VALUES**

- Partnership
- Quality
- Integrity
- Innovation
- Respect
VOLUNTEERING AT PROJECT YOUTH

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention”

Oscar Wilde

Volunteering is a core part of our organisation at Project Youth and enables us to ensure all young people, regardless of the disadvantage they may face, have the opportunity thrive.

At Project Youth we value volunteers by:

- Regarding volunteers as key resources in our service delivery and valuing the contribution that they offer
- Using the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement in Australia as a good practice guide
- Committing to ensure that volunteering has benefits for the volunteer as well as for our organisation
- Offering a range of flexible opportunities across our organisation working with volunteers to ensure best fit of skills and expertise
- Ensuring all personal expenses related directly to volunteering are reimbursed
- Ensuring all volunteers have a key contact within the organisation for support and questions
- Offering training and induction for volunteers to ensure they are fully equipped to work with vulnerable and disadvantaged young people
- Supporting volunteers to develop skills that contribute to employment pathways
- Evaluating our volunteering program to learn and improve continuously
- Recognising the contribution of volunteers and the positive impact on our outcomes
- Ensuring a safe and healthy workplace
- Having policy and procedures in place to support volunteering practice

The benefits of volunteering include:

- Connects you to new people in your community
- Helps build and develop new skills
- Can be a pathway to employment opportunities
- It can bring fun and fulfillment to your life
- Builds confidence and personal attributes
- Being able to provide direct social action to those in need
- Can provide a sense of purpose
OUR VOLUNTEERS

“I have been working with Project Youth now for over a year offering my expertise and services to support the organisation. I believe strongly in social justice and this gave me the opportunity to act on what I believe in. They are a very friendly and supportive organisation and I will remain with them as long as my skills can benefit their work. The best part by far has been seeing the impact with young people. When I see the joy on their faces it makes my time so worthwhile!”

“Being a mentor has been inspiring. The training was great and gave me so much confidence to be matched with a young person. It took a while to get to know them but now we meet up regularly. It has been so good to get to know them and what they enjoy doing. I had no idea that it would be as rewarding as it was. I would encourage anyone to check out mentoring.”

“I didn’t think I had much to offer but always wanted to volunteer, then I heard about Project Youth and the work they do with young people through fitness. I can fit in the volunteering before work which is great. Hanging out with the young people at the gym and with other mentors has been lots of fun.”

“I pop into the Café regularly to help out in the kitchen and serve the customers. It is a vibrant and busy little café and being able to support them is really worthwhile. The fact I am contributing to young people getting a start in the hospitality industry is something I didn’t think possible. Making a difference feels good too.”

“I started as a volunteer and actually ended up working there. It was a great way to get a real taste of what the work was like and how I could support young people to escape the cycle of disadvantage. The experience and skills I learned volunteering has been invaluable.”

“I set up a fundraising activity in my school as I wanted to be a part of something more than just myself. I ended up raising a couple of grand. The best part was hearing how much difference that money made to young people’s lives!”
We are often looking for reliable and enthusiastic volunteers to join our team. Below are a range of opportunities that we have available to volunteers throughout the year. All our volunteer opportunities are advertised on our website and through our social media pages. If you would like to enquire you can also contact us using the details on the last page of this booklet.

MENTORING:

We run an annual mentoring program which trains volunteer mentors and matches them with young people, supporting them to feel safe, increase their connections, achievements and healthy lifestyles. Mentors commit to 4 training days, regular meet-ups with the young person and a minimum 1 year commitment to the program.

CAFE Y:

We run a social enterprise community café based in Menai where 100% of the profits are re-invested back into supporting young people facing disadvantage. We recruit volunteers to support the work of the café through cleaning, serving customers, fundraising and marketing (e.g. leaflet distribution, photography, sharing on social media).

FUNDRAISING:

As a not-for-profit organisation we rely on fundraising efforts of committed community members. We support community members to run fundraising activities in schools, churches, sports clubs, business, pubs, clubs and through individual activity. For further information about individual or corporate fundraising please contact fundraising@projectyouth.org.au

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

Our Board of Directors are all volunteers who can offer skills, knowledge and expertise to govern Project Youth. Elections take place at our Annual General Meeting and positions are filled as needed throughout the year.

DROP-IN & YOUTH CENTRES:

We run regular drop-in programs for young people. These programs offer a safe space to connect with youth workers, other young people and their community. We recruit volunteers to run art, music, sport, dance, cooking, hairdressing/barbering, yoga programs and much more.

Fitness Program:

We run weekly fitness sessions for young people. These programs offer young people an opportunity to improve their health and fitness, which impacts positively on school attendance and achievement. The young people have an hour fitness session with a personal trainer as well as eat breakfast together before being transported to school. We recruit volunteers to participate in the morning fitness sessions to support and encourage young people, as well as providing adult role models.
VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

“Everyone can be great. Because everyone can serve.”
Martin Luther King, Jr

REFUGES & CRISIS ACCOMMODATION

We utilise volunteers in our refuges to support young people with skills including cooking, shopping, living skills and budgeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

Supporting administrative tasks across our organisation in a variety of programs

PHOTOGRPAHY, VIDEO & MARKETING

We have a committed volunteer photographer who volunteers their time to ensure we have a range of professional photos to utilise. We also recruit volunteer videographers and marketers to support our work as required.

DIY DAYS

We require labour and DIY work at our accommodation services, youth centres and refuges to ensure they are kept in a good condition. This includes painting, sanding, cleaning, gardening, small DIY tasks and removals. This could be a group offering one day through to ongoing regular support.

PRO BONO WORK

We have benefited significantly from pro bono work including legal & business advice.

EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS MENTORING

We run a social enterprise that supports young people into employment. This includes support to write resumes, write applications, dress for interviews, attend interviews or set up small businesses. Mentors attend our weekly drop-in to support young people into employment.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

We support corporate organisation to volunteer and have benefited from corporate fundraising, DIY days and running events.

If you have particular skills or experience that you believe could offer value to the work of Project Youth that is not included in the above opportunities, please contact admin@projectyouth.org.au
“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

Dr Seuss

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS
Recruitment is conducted when vacancies arise within our programs. All vacancies are advertised on our website and on our Facebook and Instagram social media pages. We will also at times utilise Volunteer Link & SEEK. If you would like to enquire about one-off, pro bono or corporate volunteering that is not advertised please contact the head office using the details on the last page of this booklet.

APPLICATION & ENQUIRY
The application form is on the Project Youth Website to download. Once completed it needs to be emailed to admin@projectyouth.org.au

For any other enquiries please use the contact details on the last page of this booklet.

POLICY
All volunteers must comply with Project Youth policy and procedures including code of conduct, privacy and confidentiality, and health and safety.

CHECKS
All volunteers that are working within our programs, on a regular basis, or in our offices will need to complete a Working With Children Check (WWCC) and a Police Check before volunteering can take place. Further information can be provided about these checks.
I WILL ... provide a safe home.
I WILL ... ADVOCATE.
I WILL ... educate more people about youth homelessness.
I WILL ... be a voice for young people.
I WILL ... support local youth community services.
I WILL ... show young people that their past does not define them.
I WILL ... contact a youth worker.
I WILL ... spread the word.
I WILL ... check in with my friends.
I WILL ... connect.
I WILL ... talk to family and friends about youth homelessness so they can act too.
“You changed my life, thank you”

Young person in crisis refuge

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