

## ***What issues does ROAR target?***

The issues that ROAR seeks to address in the prevention program are:

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Suicide
- Criminal activity
- Early school leaving
- At risk behaviours such as unsafe sex
- Bullying
- Relationships
- Sexual abuse
- Body image

## ***The specific outcomes we seek...***

Providing children and young people with:

- The ability and/skill to deal with difficult decisions regarding their lives, specifically drug and alcohol abuse, criminal activity, suicide, early school leaving and at risk or destructive behaviour.
- Inspiration to look beyond their perceived limitations and explore options on living a happy, healthy and meaningful life.
- The provision and facilitation of opportunities for connection and interaction of children and young people to positive role models.
- Access to trained and motivated local role models/leaders
- Demonstrated ways to acquire a healthy and active lifestyle.
- Exposure to role models from a diverse background.
- Promotion of the spirit of reconciliation through the interaction and exposure for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and young people of Indigenous and non-Indigenous role models.

## ***Role Models***

The use of exceptional role models from a diverse range of backgrounds to engage young people in fun stimulating sessions with life stories of achievement and conduct activities that reinforce positive themes; empowering at risk children and young people with knowledge, skills and inspiration.

ROAR has a stable of role models who have achieved considerable success in their own lives and have a genuine desire to use their fame and influence to inspire children and young people to be healthier and happier. Whitelion uses role models from a broad cross-section of the community, including Indigenous role models and females as well as role models from the local community. Whitelion provides training and professional development seminars for the role models.

## ***What the schools are saying about ROAR...***

*The Whitelion ROAR Program has become a very important addition to student programs at Merbein Secondary College since 2002. The speakers provide an inspirational message to our students, which supports and complements the work done by teachers in classrooms.*

*The partnership which has developed between this school and the Whitelion organisers is significant to the success of the Program and the impact it is having on our students. This collaboration is a key element. There is regular contact about the issues which face our students*

*and how we can work together to make a difference. The success of the Program is due to its ongoing nature. The links that are made between speakers and students have the opportunity to grow and continue to be developed.*

*Students relate well to the high profile speakers and the interaction has on all occasions been extremely positive and inspirational.*

Gary Costello, Principal, Merbein Secondary College, Loddon Mallee Region.

*Firstly, the school have really benefited from such an amazing, inspiring and motivating program that has fit into the needs of the school. For instance, the staff at Roar were more than accommodating to fit into our Year 9 Orientation Day, which was held off premises and further away from the school. This really assisted in our planning for 2008.*

*It has been extremely beneficial to have the consistency of the facilitator in order to follow each session through. The students have got to know the facilitator's style and look forward to having him return each time with someone new.*

*The role models have been able to have a real impact on our students as they relates to them and addresses them with understanding and empathy. It has been great to have role models with similar backgrounds to many of our students, this has created an unspoken respect between them.*

Chiara Reilly, School Support Worker, Newcomb Secondary College, Greater Geelong Region.

### ***What the students are saying about ROAR...***

*I learnt that to get big in life you have to start out as what you really are.*  
Year 5 student, Mildura.

*I like the way that the role models talk to us like equals, not just kids.*  
Yr9 student, Geelong

*The session was really cool because I learned about getting rid of pain and anger how to take control of my future.*  
Yr 7 student, Traralgon.

*ROAR made me look deep in to myself and I learnt more about my self. They are so cool.*  
Year 6 student, Geelong.

*I learned you don't have to be from a big city and a rich family to achieve your dreams. Don't stop dreaming. Be happy. You can change your life.*  
Yr 10 student, Castlemaine.