VOLUNTEER MENTOR APPLICATION FORM

Supporting youth at-risk

Date Received:
(Office Use Only)

Full Name:

Any previous name(s):

Sex:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Suburb: **Postcode:**

Telephone numbers

M: **H:**

W:

Email:

Best method of contact:

During the initial recruitment process Whitelion will use email in order to create a more streamlined process. Please ensure you check your email regularly including any spam filters and/or add mentoring@whitelion.asn.au as a contact.

Do you hold a current Driver's Licence? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you own or have access to a car? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a Working With Children Check card? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes', please include a photocopy of the card with your application.

Next of Kin - we will contact your next of kin in the case of an accident, emergency or injury whilst you are volunteering. Also if we are unable to make contact with you for more than 4 weeks in order to find out whether something has happened to you but you are unable to contact us to let us know.

Name: **Relationship to you:**

M: **H:** **W:**

Email:

POLICE SECURITY CHECK

Whitelion requires all volunteer mentors and staff to undergo a police check. Please notify the program coordinators if you expect offences to be listed (Disclosure of offences does not necessarily preclude you in becoming a mentor).
Your consent to such a check is both required and appreciated, and any information disclosed through these checks will remain confidential. The required paperwork for police checks will be provided to you by mentoring staff during the screening process, and there is no requirement for you to complete the check yourself prior to this.

1. VOLUNTEERING

Why do you want to become a mentor?

☐ To give back to the community

☐ Studying in a related field

☐ To gain new skills

☐ To meet new people

☐ Advance career prospects

☐ Other (please state):

Comments:

What do you hope to get out of the mentoring experience?

Have you had previous volunteer roles? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes', please list them below:

Organisation:

Role:

Duration *(i.e. June 2010-November 2012)*:

Contact Name:

Contact Number:

Organisation:

Role:

Duration *(i.e. June 2010-November 2012)*:

Contact Name:

Contact Number:

Have you ever applied for volunteer work and been unsuccessful?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes', please tell us what it was and why you were unsuccessful.

2. WHO ARE YOU?

What best describes you?

☐ Employed – How many hours on average do you work per week?

☐ Student – How many contact hours do you have per week?

☐ Self-employed – How many hours on average do you work per week?

☐ Stay-at-home parent - Hours a week committed to parenting and other activities?

☐ Unemployed - Hours a week committed to other activities?

☐ Retired - Hours a week committed to other activities?

Have you ever interacted with young people aged 12 to 25 years of age?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes', how and when?

To help us understand a bit about 'who you are', please write a short paragraph about your life. Please continue on a separate sheet if you need more space.

What sorts of entertainment do you like?

What are your favourite TV shows / movies?

Do you like or dislike any particular music – maybe list your favourite band, artist, type of music, etc?

What (if any) sports are you interested in? List your favourite teams, players, etc.

Are you interested in any creative pursuits (e.g. artwork, woodwork, photography)?

Is there anything else you would like to add?

3. WHAT IS REQUIRED OF YOU

3.1 Supervision and Support

It is recognised that working with young people in Youth Justice and/or Child Protection can be overwhelming and confronting, particularly in a one-on-one relationship in a community environment. Close support, guidance and supervision is not only available to all mentors, but is in fact a requirement of participation in the program. With this in mind, ALL mentors MUST have phone contact with the Program Coordinator at least once per month, in addition to one face-to-face meeting per quarter.

Are you able to commit to the requirements above? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What types of support do you feel you would need as a volunteer mentor?

3.2 Commitment

Whitelion's mentoring program aims to reflect best practice standards in mentoring. For this reason, we require that Whitelion mentors spend a minimum of 3 hours per fortnight for a duration of at least 12 months with a young person in this program, plus weekly contact by telephone.

Are you able to commit to the requirements above? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please describe how you plan to meet this commitment.

3.3 On-going Training

Mentors are expected to attend free 'Mentor Matters' training that takes place every 6 weeks (training runs on a weeknight for 2 hours) in order to keep skills and knowledge updated as well as allowing for catch-ups with Program Coordinators. Training covers topics such as sexual abuse, self-care, communication skills, boundaries, substance abuse, etc.

Are you able to attend on-going training? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3.4 Additional Opportunities

Whitelion run additional activities such as Community Days (after-hours activities), camps and special events. Participation is voluntary but is encouraged.

Would you be interested in participating in these events? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3.5 Drugs and Alcohol

Are you able to commit that you will not have any contact with a young person whilst you are affected by, or consuming, drugs or alcohol?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. ISSUES YOUNG PEOPLE FACE

What do you believe are some issues young people face in society today?

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Leaving Care

The Leaving Care Mentoring Programs target young people aged 16 to 18 years preparing to leave state care in the Northern, Western and Eastern Metropolitan Regions, Geelong, Bendigo and Gippsland. There is a particular focus on young people who are pregnant or parenting, have limited or no formal support networks outside of the care system, are at risk of further disconnection from the wider community, are at risk of homelessness, and those at risk of dropping out of the education/training system following statutory involvement.

The objective of the program is to provide adult volunteer mentors for these young people. The mentors assist in promoting a young person's sense of self, support them in establishing independence post involvement with the Child Protection System/Out of Home Care, assist them to access employment, education and training opportunities, support them to maintain engagement and achieve positive outcomes, and nurture connectedness with their local communities, addressing isolation, loneliness and alienation.

Youth Justice

Youth Justice Mentoring operates in both a custodial and community based setting. Mentors have the opportunity to participate in evening "centre based" group activities, visiting young people in Parkville Youth Justice Precinct, or engage with young people at risk of offending (i.e. those on community based Youth Justice orders or transitioning back into the community from custody). The program supports young people aged 14-21 years predominantly from Melbourne's Northern metropolitan region. Mentors and young people in the Youth Justice program can develop purposeful relationships that can assist to reduce personal isolation and contribute to positive self-esteem. These positive outcomes can result in a reduction in the behaviours and factors that have led to the young person's involvement in the Youth Justice System.

Ramp

The Ramp Mentoring Program aims to engage young people aged between 13-17 years living in residential care in Melbourne's eastern suburbs to give them experiences that will inspire them to take a positive and proactive approach to their lives. Run in partnership with Reach, RAMP draws on the strengths of the two partner organisations to facilitate the engagement and matching process for these at risk young people. The program utilises Whitelion's wealth of experience in mentoring in combination with the positive experiential workshop and camp format that Reach deliver. Mentors gain the full Whitelion mentoring training and support whilst also attending a series of 'Connection Workshops' which focus both on personal development and 'getting to know you' activities for potential mentors and mentees.

Community Integration Program

Young people who are actively involved in their local communities are more likely to remain in school, get a job and lead a healthy and positive life. Children and young people in out-of-home care, particularly in residential care, often do not get the same opportunities as other children and young people to 'belong' or experience the advantages of being part of their local community. The CIP supports vulnerable young people to connect to local clubs, groups or individuals to pursue their chosen interests and hobbies. The CIP aims to link a young person with a volunteer from the community who can support and assist the young person in connecting; whether that is through sporting, music, art & drama or other hobbies and interests. The CIP allows young people to build sustainable connections and relationships between them and the surrounding community using an interest and activity-based approach..

Which programs appeal to you? (Please tick)

Leaving Care	☐
Youth Justice	☐
Ramp	☐
Community Integration Program	☐

Whitelion will try to accommodate your preference; however, mentor allocation is ultimately determined by the current need for each program.

How did you find out about the Whitelion Volunteer Programs?

Please return this form to mentoring@whitelion.asn.au or by post to:

Mentoring Program
Whitelion
155 Roden Street
West Melbourne 3003

Thank you! We look forward to meeting you.

REFERENCES

Please provide the names and contact details of three people who can act as referees for you. Nominated referees are to include:

1 *Employer or supervisor*
2 *Friend*
3 *Character reference (Public figure or a professional person)*

All nominated people need to: have known you for at least 12 months, not be a significant other, not be related to you, have regular contact with you and be able to vouch for you. Please ensure you inform your referees that we will be in contact with them. All references are strictly confidential.

☐ Please tick this box to indicate that you have discussed your application to become a volunteer mentor with Whitelion with each of your referees**.**

EMPLOYER / SUPERVISOR

Name:

Company/Organisation:

Position:

T: **M:**

Best time to call:

FRIEND

Name:

T: **M:**

Best time to call:

CHARACTER

Name:

Company/Organisation:

Position:

T: **M:**

Best time to call: