

# It's all about young leaders

## Leesa Smith

Local high school girls attended a workshop to enhance their leadership skills recently.

Twenty-eight Year 10 Concord High School students completed the workshop as part of the YWCA NSW Leadership Program, titled "Y - It's All About You!"

The program gives young women the opportunity to enhance their leadership abilities and learn new skills so they can make a difference in their family, school and wider community.

As part of the program, students will hold a Superheroes mufti day at school on Thursday to raise funds for the Starlight Foundation. Merchandise will be on sale, and the students will also collect gold coin donations, have a lolly jar guessing competition and a face painting stall.

An integral part of the program's success is the adult mentors, who come from the community and work alongside students and encourage the youngsters by sharing their own experiences.

Mentors participate in the workshops as positive role models and facilitators, to motivate, guide and support students to believe in themselves, develop leadership skills, engage in future learning opportunities and discover their potential.



**Concord High School students Kristy Beazley and Nicole Bathurst role play.** Photo: Erin Byrne

Program co-ordinator Rebecca Bernard said she has watched the students grow throughout the course of the program.

"I have seen the self confidence of these fabulous young women grow as they have stepped up as leaders," Ms Bernard said. "They have done this by taking

responsibility and working together with their peers to achieve common goals such as organising the community event."

Canada Bay Council provided Concord Community Centre as the venue and the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation provided a grant to make the program possible.