

Media release

March 1, 2016



NEW PROGRAM STARTING! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN NORTHERN NSW

Create new leaders: New South Wales communities help grow the voice of the youth

*1,200 Young People involved, 1,200 Mentors, over 1000 Community Projects,
this is Youth Frontiers 2015.... It's BACK in 2016 and we need you!*

In 2015, a 6 month mentoring program "Youth Frontiers" was delivered by YWCA NSW, to a select group of year 8 and 9 students, in northern NSW – helping both mentor and students to realise their potential.

Participants of the NSW Government Youth Mentoring Program were selected to enhance their leadership skills and community engagement. The aim of the program is for volunteer mentors to help the young people develop life skills and make a positive difference in their local community, whilst undertaking a community project. The 6 month program is made up of a minimum of 30 hours of mentoring, split between one-to-one sessions, and group sessions each week within the school environment.

Youth Frontiers Program Manager Mara Greenwood was thrilled with the impact of the program in 2015; "It was great to see students step outside of their comfort zone and challenge themselves. To see not only the students benefit, but their mentors as well, was so powerful."

"Often the community projects focused around helping others" said Ms. Greenwood. "We were fortunate enough to have brave young people share their own personal struggles with mental health to design their projects around awareness of youth mental health".

Youth Frontiers will be running again in early 2016, and volunteer mentors are needed NOW!

Do you...Want to be more involved within your local community?
Do you...Think that young people have a voice that needs to be heard?
Do you...want to make a difference?

Become a mentor with Youth Frontiers NOW....

*"I wanted to have a chance to be a part of something amazing
...and for me that happened with Youth Frontiers!"*

- Janet, Youth Frontiers Mentor2015

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Anyone can be a mentor – here's what we are looking for;

- People who want to make a difference in their community to help engage the younger generation. To co-create a community project with a young person.
- Whether you are a student, a teacher, a parent, or a business owner...if you are 18 or 80 – sign up today!
- All you need is enthusiasm and a desire to help young people reach their potential, for a better future – it's as simple as that
- Volunteers don't need any experience or qualifications - full training is provided

Interested in becoming a Volunteer?

- Call (02) 9285 6272
- **OR** Visit www.youthfrontiers.com.au
- And submit an online application form

-----ENDS-----

**Interviews with Volunteer Mentors, and/or
Program Manager and Program Coordinators available and YWCA NSW CEO**

Photos from previous program are also available

If you are interested organising an interview, please contact:

Mara Greenwood, (02) 9285 6272 E. marag@ywcansw.com.au

Corporate Information:

YWCA NSW was established in 1880 with a focus on supporting, educating and providing safe harbour for women. Today YWCA Australia is part of an international network with a global outreach of more than 25 million people through work in 22,000 communities supporting women working for social and economic change for women and girls, their families and communities. Over time, our work has expanded and includes programs and services for a wider community in terms of gender, age, cultural backgrounds and beliefs. These programs range from supported playgroups, literacy and numeracy support, respectful relationships education, Big Brothers, Big Sisters Programs, youth mentoring and leadership programs, right through to homelessness and domestic violence support services.

Visit: ywcansw.com.au for more information