

OPERATIONAL REPORT 2019

The Connection Experts



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South West Connect is committed to empowering young people in South West Sydney to be resilient and resourceful individuals creating their own futures.



Join us in creating opportunities for young people to realise their educational, social and employment potential.

We work with young people aged 5-25 years and their families to discover pathways to a better future.

Many of our young people are from low socio economic, refugee and migrant backgrounds facing challenges of disengagement, generational unemployment and welfare dependency.

When young people feel empowered, inspired and motivated to achieve their goals and are provided with appropriate skills and resources, they will focus their time and energy on achieving their goals regardless of their background or the adversity they previously faced as evidenced by the many success stories within our community over the years.

Workplacement

Workplacement is a one week placement with businesses, to enhance students skills learned in the classroom. It is a mandatory component of industry-based Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses, that students choose as part of their studies for the NSW High School Certificate.



Youth Collective Impact

We work with schools, community organisations and businesses to help young people discover pathways to a better future by enriching their educational, social and employment potential. **SWC empowers young people to gain the skills, experiences and professional guidance to help them achieve a successful transition through school to further education, training or employment and become active and valuable contributors in the community.**

Corporate Governance



FBEP

The **Fairfield Business Education Partnership** (FBEP) Board provides governance and leadership to South West Connect (trading name) in accordance with the Constitution and FBEP policies. The Board has active sub-committees with portfolios that include finance and audit, performance, remuneration and strategic planning.

The FBEP Board of Directors has representatives from local industry, community, Government and Catholic High Schools, The Department of Education Senior Pathways Office, The Sydney Catholic Schools Regional Office, TAFE and Association of Independent Schools.

The Board meets 5 times per year and interacts with the South West Connect Team on a regular basis.

Our Board of Directors

FBEP BOARD

Susan Turner
(Chairperson)

Michael Foulkes
(Public Officer)

Jayne Occhiuto
(FBEP Treasurer)

Catherine Sip
(Board Member)

Christine Shakya
(Board Member)

Kenneth Edge
(Board Member)

Nathan Millett
(Board Member)

ACNC

South West Connect (SWC) is a not for profit organisation and a registered charity with deductible gift recipient status, complying with the **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission** (ACNC) framework. All donations over \$2 made to SWC are tax deductible. Further information of SWC's financials can be obtained from the ACNC website: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity>

ABOUT US



Visit our website swconnect.org.au to access the latest news, events and resources. This includes videos, program details and our team structure including the contact details of each SWC team member.

SWC has a proven track record of empowering over 86,000 young people in South West Sydney to discover pathways to a better future for themselves and their families.

The **Structured Workplace Learning Team** and the **Youth Collective Impact Team** work with businesses, government agencies, community organisations, parents and schools to create initiatives that connect young people (5 -25 years of age) and their families to opportunities to enhance their life options beyond school.

Our Mission

- Empower young people to achieve their educational, social and employment potential
- Support students in career exploration, career decision making and the transition into work
- Engage communities, in particular local government and employers, around the needs of young people transitioning into the workforce
- Engage with and build relationships with schools and career advisers across our region to promote the importance of career education and workplace learning

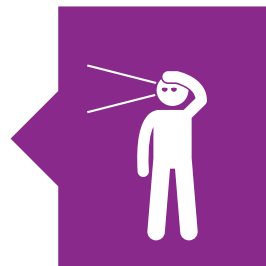


Our Reach

We work with 42 High Schools and 103 Primary Schools, engage with all 3 education sectors NSW Department of Education, Sydney Catholic Schools and Association of Independent Schools NSW. We operate in Fairfield and Liverpool LGA and also in parts of Cumberland and Canterbury-Bankstown City Councils.

Our Vision

To inspire young people and their families by connecting them to the resources, skills and opportunities that enhances their options and empower them to be their best.



Our Action & Collaborative Approach

We achieve this through our Workplacement Program and the Youth Collective Impact Initiative. We partner with stakeholders across all sectors (business, school, family and community), building community capacity and strengthening aspirations and resilience for all young people in South West Sydney so they can create their own pathways to a better future.

Workplacement



Structured Workplace Learning

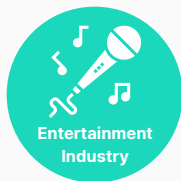
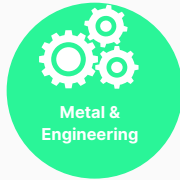
South West Connect works with Education and Industry to provide workplacement opportunities for Year 11 and 12 students in the Fairfield, Liverpool and Cumberland City Council (Local Government Areas) who are studying Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses as part of their HSC.

VET courses allow students to begin their industry training at the same time as studying for their HSC. It offers students a unique opportunity to practise what they have learned in the classroom and to experience the real world of work.

Each year, South West Connect coordinates and monitors approximately 5,500 workplacements for students from 39 high schools, Government and Non-Government and 3 TAFE colleges located in the Fairfield, Liverpool and Cumberland Local Government Areas.

These schools and TAFEs deliver training in the following Industry Curriculum Frameworks:

- Automotive
- Business Services
- Construction Pathways
- Electro technology
- Entertainment Industry
- Food & Beverage
- Financial Services
- Human Services
- Information & Digital Technology
- Kitchen Operations
- Metal and Engineering
- Primary Industries



SWC supports workplace stakeholders in the following ways:



Students

Students are supported throughout their 2 year VET course and can access a range of resources on SWC's website. SWC provides 'Work Ready' sessions and mock interviews prior to the placement. SWC ensures students settle in well at the workplace and gain a meaningful experience relevant to their course.



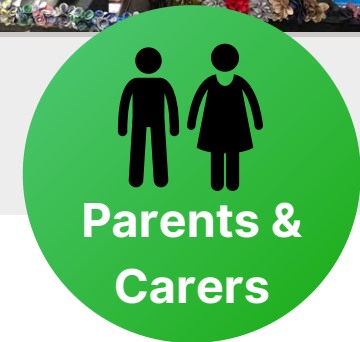
Employers

Employers are assigned an Employer Liaison Consultant who provides assistance with every aspect of the workplace process. Dedicated Workplacement Officers contact the host employer before, during and after the placement. They also are a main point of contact for any issues arising during the placement.



Teachers

Teachers are supported throughout the year by SWC including VET Advisory meetings held each term. SWC sources and administers workplacements on behalf of the school. VET teachers have a dedicated Workplacement Officer who is the conduit between the school and the host employers, providing prompt and effective support throughout the student's workplacement.



Parents & Carers

Parents and Carers can access the Parents & Carers Guide to Workplace Learning before their child attends workplacement. This contains important information about preparing for a positive and realistic workplacement experience.



By actively participating in workplacements, students can:



Develop knowledge, skills and attitudes through real workplace experience.



Learn work ethics, team work and the meaning of responsibility



Gain maturity and confidence through involvement in an adult work setting



Make informed decisions in assessing future career choices



I found work placement was a massive kick start to my career, I was able to bypass the interview process and work with guys I already knew from my placement who trusted me from day one and continue to encourage me to do my best each day

-Nicholas, Workplacement Student



We enjoy hosting students, they are of great assistance to us, and we enjoy being part of their educational journey. We endeavour to give the students while on placement with us a realistic insight of what it is like to work in the administration side of this very competitive service industry

-Shiela, Service Manager

I am grateful for the opportunities I have been given, the support and my love of food that I get from my parents, my school and South West Connect for allowing me to do my workplacement at Harbourview Hotel - **Allina, Workplacement Student** (offered and accepted an apprenticeship based on strong performance during her workplacement)



It is gratifying watching a student's confidence increase through the course of their Workplacement and as an employer I get to see first hand what they are like and how they fit the business which has resulted in employment for the student - **Matthew, Restaurant General Manager**



VET & Student Work Ethic Awards

(Recognising talents & achievements)

Each year and over the past decade, SWC supports a range of awards that recognise the talents and achievements of young people. These include :

- DoE VET Awards Gold Sponsor
- Executive Director's VET Awards for Sydney Catholic Schools sponsor
- VET Student of the Year Award (all 36 of our schools offering VET courses)
- VET Student Workplacement Awards as nominated by Host Employers
- **Student Work Ethic Awards provided to all 145 Primary and High Schools in our region.** SWC asks schools to select a student who has consistently demonstrated that they try to achieve their personal best in a diligent and respectful manner, the award includes a certificate and a Coles Myer gift card.



Youth Collective Impact



The Youth Collective Impact Team has a proven track record of **"Connecting Youth to Business and Community"** through innovative initiatives that inspire young people (aged 5 to 25 years) and their families by connecting them to the resources, skills and opportunities that create pathways to achieve their educational, social and employment potential and ultimately empowering them to be their best.

Through our collaboration and established networks across the education, business and community sectors, we have created over 100 sustainable cross sector partnerships and initiatives that focus on health & wellbeing, reducing youth unemployment, enhancing employability skills, transition & pathway options that

will allow young people to create their own futures.

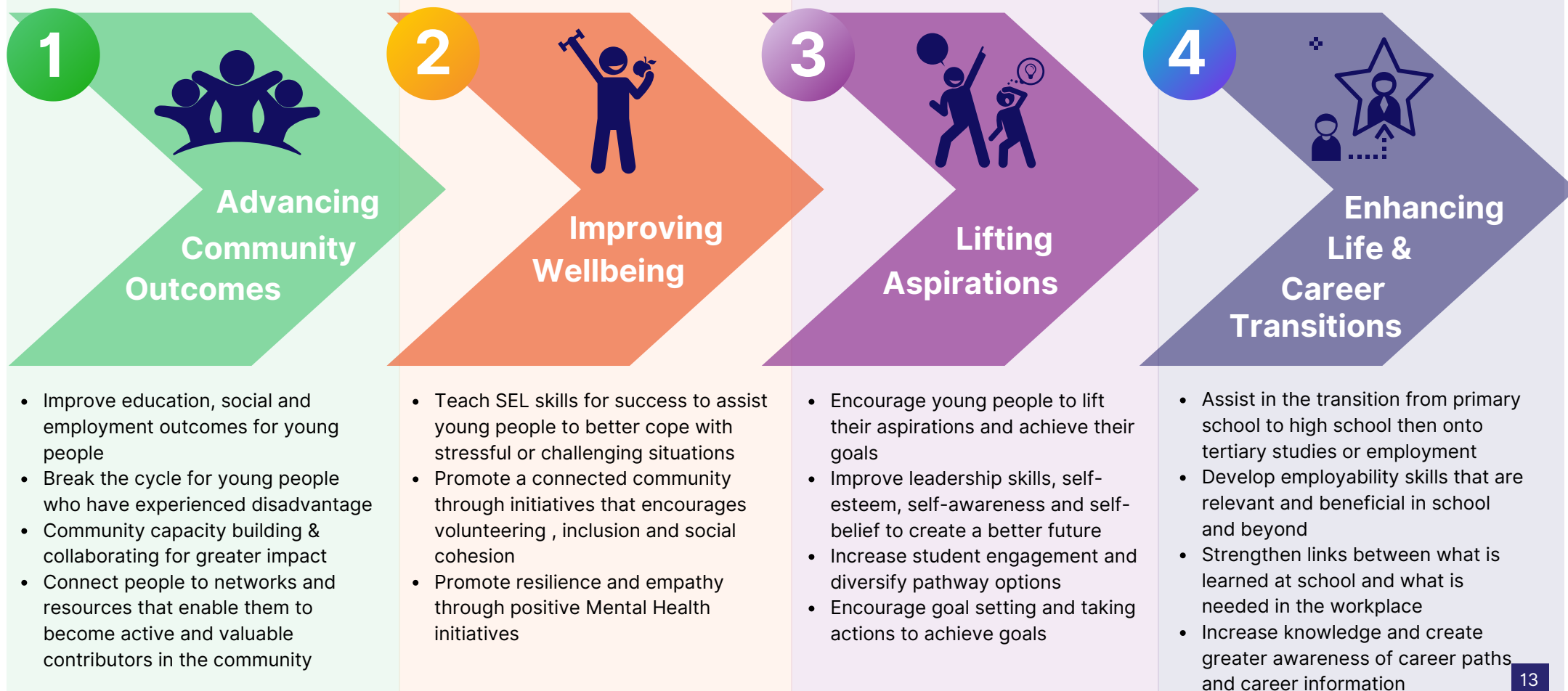
Since 2006 SWC has been the only organisation in the Fairfield, Liverpool and Cumberland City LGA's that works with all 152 schools from across the Government, Catholic and independent sectors.

We also work with many community organisations to build their capacity in delivering a whole of community solution. **SWC has assisted with connecting young people to thousands of part time, full time, casual, apprenticeships and School Based Apprenticeship opportunities, also through our partnerships, work ready program and mock interview sessions.**





The strategic focus of the Youth Collective Impact Team includes:





Background & Our Diverse Community

Our community is culturally diverse and has a combined population of 464,165 people, 45.8% were born overseas and 60% face socio-economic disadvantage.

With a long tradition of welcoming refugees and migrants, our region is a uniquely vibrant and compassionate community. The region is home to many refugees and asylum seekers and continues to welcome new migrants. Close to 12,000 refugees and migrants arrived in the region in 2016/17.

The construction of the Western Sydney Airport and the development of surrounding commercial and residential precincts and new suburbs will see the population growth projected to exceed 650,000 people by the year 2036.



This unprecedented growth and development brings opportunity but also a range of challenges for the youth in our community. Many of the young people in our community are from low socioeconomic, CALD, refugee and migrant backgrounds facing challenges of disengagement, generational unemployment and welfare dependency.

SWC's Youth Collective Impact Team aims to ensure young people vulnerable to these challenges are supported and have a strong foundation to build their futures. We do this by creating initiatives that address social and wellbeing barriers, and obstacles impeding on education and employment outcomes.

With the focus of empowering young people to realise their educational, social and employment potential, and through continued community consultation, SWC will continue to build on our strong trusted community and business connections to create innovative and relevant programs and events to create better social and economic outcomes for our region.

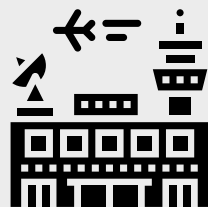
SWC wishes to thank schools, businesses, community organisations, volunteers and participants for your contribution towards a better future for the youth in our region. SWC also thanks our funding providers for their continued support of our projects and initiatives in the community.





Local Government Areas

Liverpool
Fairfield
Cumberland
Canterbury-Bankstown



New Infrastructure Projects

Western Sydney International Aerotropolis
Airport Commercial Precinct
Airport Passenger Terminal Precinct
Airport Freight, Logistics and Commercial Precinct
Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport



Transport

Road, Railway, T-Way, Bus and Motor Vehicle



Population

441,095 (2016)

464,165 (2019)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

3,012

Liverpool City

1,482

Fairfield City

181

Merrylands Central



201,869 Born Overseas

40.7%

Liverpool City (83,238)

53.9%

Fairfield City (107,068)

49.3%

Merrylands Central, (11,563)



121,374

Young people

41,678

Primary School Students aged 5 to 11

35,708

High School Students aged 12 to 17

43,988

Tertiary Education / Young Workforce
aged 18 to 24



60% Socio-Economic Disadvantage

42 out of 70 suburbs in Region E are socio-economically disadvantaged, have a SEIFA (Socio-economic Indexes for Areas) Score below 960



Employment & Labour Force

180,740

Total labour force (participation rate)

91.07%

Total Employed (164,607)

8.93%

Total Unemployed (16,133)



Employment Status

106,693 Full-time

52,935 Part-time

4,979 Other



38,989

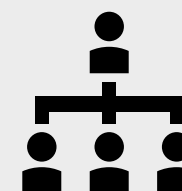
Registered Businesses

22,253

Non Employing Businesses

19

Industry Sectors



16,736

Employing Businesses

15,977

with 1-19 Employees

731

with 20-199 Employees

28

with 200+ Employees

Our impact in 2019

SWC works across 3 Education Sectors



42

High Schools



103

Primary Schools

8,796

Young people participated in at least one of SWC's initiatives



6,990

HSC VET Students successfully completing a one-week work placement



746

Host Employers trained & developed workplacement students



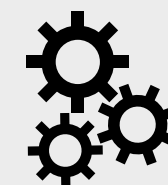
315

Students participated in the **Big Dreams, Bigger Futures** as part of the **Communities for Children** initiative



3,320

Students developed their employability skills, confidence & ambition through **Work Ready sessions, mock interviews & career skills workshops**



635

Students expanded their horizons and **made industry connections** during the **Future Links, Future Ready Tours**



COLLABORATION FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

SWC Partnership with Business & NSW Department of Education

South West Connect (SWC) has worked in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education (NSW DoE) since 2006, delivering over 60,500 student workplacements in that period.

SWC has previously partnered with NSW DoE to deliver the Student Pop Up Café initiative to help students gain real life experience, serving up to 100-200 paying customers within a 3 hour period (serving up to 2 customers a minute during peak time).

A key reason for the Student Pop Up Café was to allow students to be co-assessed under the guidance of industry experts and their teacher outside of the school environment.

SWC is currently collaborating with the Regional Industry Education Partnership (RIEP) initiative to deliver 10 Class Chefs events over a 12 month period. **The RIEP initiative strengthens connections between industry and schools. RIEP helps students develop the skills they need to get a job by linking what is learned at school and what is needed in the workplace.**

During the Class Chefs event, students can serve over 100 customers within a 3 hour period – comparable with some of the busiest restaurants in Sydney. It allows students to demonstrate strong communication, outstanding teamwork, workplace time management, problem-solving skills and experience working under pressure.

These skills are often difficult to demonstrate or master in the classroom yet are crucial in the workplace. The Class Chefs initiative bridges this gap and provides the 'next level' link to industry that students require to succeed beyond school.

The success of Class Chefs is also attributed to the contribution of the many hospitality businesses over the years. Cucina 105 and Bellbird Dining are both RIEP Class Chefs venues, with both employers regularly hosting SWC student workplacements. The feedback from teachers, students, parents and the general public about the impact of Class Chefs has been extremely positive.



Class Chefs students take over Cucina 105 Restaurant to perform, serve and prepare a night of good food & live entertainment for paying customers.





Educational Pathways Pilot Program (EPPP)

The Educational Pathways Pilot Program (EPPP) was launched in 2020 and continues until 2023. It is an innovative program designed to give students a better sense of what lies beyond the school gates, and provide them with more personalised and targeted careers advice.

The 10 pilot initiatives centre on:

- Helping students into school-based apprenticeships and traineeships through mentoring and support
- Expanding opportunities for school students to engage with fee-free VET Smart & Skilled programs
- Strengthening careers advice and job-ready life skills for young people

SWC is a strong supporter of the EPPP, having been involved from the initial group consultation meeting on 16th September 2019, we also provided a formal submission to help enhance the impact of the EPPP.

SWC has been actively contributing to 2 of the key pilot programs, **EDGE for Work workshops and Careers Immersion Teams (CIT)**, working closely with the CIT Head Teachers to identify the needs gaps, build on relationships and connections with industry and create synergies across both the Liverpool and Cowpasture clusters. 11 of the 15 schools (73%) in the South West Sydney Pilot are in the SWC footprint.

In addition to the CIT cluster meetings, SWC also participates in the Industry Engagement Working Group which is the steering committee to enhance the EDGE pilot. The EPPP's objective aligns with SWC's aim to improve the quality of, and access to careers information and advice for young people in our region.

This is also why SWC contributes to the Careers and Transitions Advisers Network to enhance career advisor capacity and capability and industry engagement to new cohorts, particularly in Years 8 to 10, in addition to Years 11 and 12.

SWC has been an active member of the Workplace Learning Network (WLN) for the past 3 years. The WLN is an association comprised of 16 organisations with a business model that focuses on the youth of NSW.

In addition to being a service provider of the Structured Workplace Learning program, the network members have delivered a variety of workplace programs and services to schools, industry and communities in their regions for over 15 years.

The WLN provides opportunities for students to obtain the skills and workplace learning experiences they require to make sound personal, educational and vocational choices to ensure they have the best chance of thriving in the workplace in the future.

Currently the WLN works with 778 schools across NSW and over 20,000 employers, and provides work placements for over 60,000 students annually. Each region works relatively autonomously to deliver their own unique collection of work placement services.

WLN members are unencumbered by alliances to out of region influences ensuring the; management is local, the staff is local and the services are local.

WLN Engages with all Education Sectors



STATE wide Strength

LOCAL knowledge, impact, network and change

Across NSW, the WLN works with:

778

HIGH SCHOOLS



16 **REGIONS**

Including rural,
regional and
metropolitan



20,000+

**HOST EMPLOYERS
PER YEAR**



60,000+

**ANNUAL PLACEMENTS
PER YEAR**



3,000+

**NEW HOST EMPLOYER BUSINESSES
RECRUITED PER YEAR**





Apprenticeship & Traineeship Expo 2019

In partnership with Brett Carter Events, the 2019 expo was hosted for the second time in Liverpool at the Whitlam Leisure Centre and was attended by 2,000 students, parents, Careers Advisers and young job seekers. They had the opportunity to meet with potential employers, training providers and organisations that provide support services for young job seekers.

SWC was proud to be involved as a stall holder at

the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Expo and also to promote the event to our network of schools and employers. This Apprenticeship and Traineeship Expo compliments the Seek a Skill Interactive Careers Expo (formerly Try a Trade Expos) that SWC has hosted in partnership with local high schools and Local Councils (and was previously attended by up to 2,000 students from 20 high schools annually) over the past decade.



2019 National Youth Week Celebrations

The 2019 Bring It On! Festival, held during Youth Week in April, had more than 5,000 young people and their families from all around Sydney gather at the Fairfield Showground.

SWC again hosted an interactive careers and pathways stall along with a t-shirt design contest. The theme of the t-shirt design was "your future," which the young participants were eager to create and share. Paper t-shirts were given to design, then displayed throughout the day, with three

lucky winners winning gift vouchers for both best design and best effort.

The Youth Collective Impact Team interacted with families who had come for a family day out, as well as handing out resources on programs and important information for parents about engaging in their child's education and supporting their wellbeing. It was an ideal opportunity for SWC to speak with local students, residents and community workers about 'Our' community.

2163 and Eastern Fairfield “In Focus” Projects

The “2163 In Focus” project was a key ongoing collaboration between local service providers and stakeholders since 2017. The next phase of the project was extended to incorporate the “Eastern Suburbs” of the Fairfield LGA which includes Yennora, Old Guildford and Fairfield East.

Sitting on the fringe of Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown and Cumberland Councils, both regions are home to an extremely diverse population. Viewed externally as entrenched in disadvantage and facing major challenges such as crime and high unemployment.

Despite this, we found a resilient community that has the will to work together to make positive changes to improve their community.



This project is an ongoing collaboration with several local organisations. The Leadership and Reference Groups included:

- Community First Step
- Department of Education
- Fairfield City Council
- Lost in Books
- Old Guildford Public School
- Save the Children
- South West Connect
- TAFE NSW
- The Parks Community Network
- The Smith Family – Communities for Children
- Villawood North Public School
- Woodville Alliance
- Yennora Public School

This approach utilised core steps which included:

- Investigated the demographics of local residents
- Community Conversations and consultations with over 120 people

In our conversations we heard what people liked about their community:

- Diversity (across all demographics, social cohesion)
- Shops (local, specialised family business)
- Schools (welcoming and supportive)

And what they didn't like:

- Lack of (awareness of) services, transport and outreach
- Not feeling safe, including road safety
- Lack of parks and state of physical spaces

A report was one of the outputs and aims to provide an overview of the journey so far, our communities needs and the next steps for community and local services to continue to collaborate to reach the community's vision for the future.



Work Ready & VET Expectations (Corptraining)

Recognising the importance of ensuring that students are supported to prepare for and understand the value of completing their workplacement in a professional manner, SWC has funded the services of a professional presenter from Corptraining to assist schools in delivering their Work Ready programs to our Vocational Education & Training (VET) students.

The information provides students with an overall awareness of workplace expectations, how to successfully meet them and ways to positively contribute. Close to 16,000 students have benefited from this initiative, which also includes workshops for students from Years 10 through to 12.

Topics covered include preparation for work

experience as well as finding part time work and transition into the workforce after completing their high school education.

A further 10,500 students have participated in Mock Interview Days hosted by SWC and Corptraining over the past decade.



InnoClub : Skills for Entrepreneurship

SWC has partnered with the InnoClub, (an initiative of Campsie RSL Group) where they will educate, incubate & accelerate start-ups on innovation for solving club business challenges and local community / social problems.

One of their goals is to work with local schools and young people to provide them with the key skills and mindset required to create and implement innovative solutions that can be scaled into social enterprises. SWC has been involved in a consultation process with the executive team to provide them with key insights into the best approach when working with our local community.

Fairfield City Council Partnership



Bring it On! Festival

South West Connect is a strong supporter of this event, ensuring that each year's stall is interactive and engaging. From the start to the finish of each event, the SWC stall is packed with participants getting involved in one of the many activities ranging from our lolly guessing competition, T-Shirt design competition, straw building competition and career quizzes. Some participants come back to our stall the next year just to be the first to enter our new competitions. It's fantastic to see children and their parents participate in the SWC activities, sometimes spending up to 2 hours at the SWC stall. **Local workplacement Students have also been involved prior to, during and after each year's event as part of their VET course.**

Highest Level of Collaboration (Integration)

SWC seconded our SWC Youth Project Officer to lead the Choose Life (Skills) Project based at Fairfield City Council during 2018/19. SWC utilised our project and relationship management skills to ensure positive and shared stakeholder participation to develop programs tailored to different sites across Fairfield City. This allowed SWC to share our knowledge, skills and resources on a 3 day per week basis with Fairfield City Council leading to the successful delivery of a 12 month project within a reduced 7 month period.

Seek a Skill Careers Expos (Local Employment)

Fairfield Council employees, from across all trades ranging from plumbers, electricians to horticulturalists and diesel mechanics have been great role models for our students at the SWC Seek a Skill (formerly Try a Trade) Interactive Careers Expos. **Over the past decade, thousands of students attend each year's expo and 55 former students that participated in the expos have gone on to accept apprenticeships with various employers including Fairfield City Council.**

FYWN and YAC

SWC regularly attends the monthly Fairfield Youth Worker's Network (FYWN) Meetings, a forum where local service providers collaborate, share and gain knowledge and resources. **In 2015 and 2016 SWC was a FYWN convener, coordinating and facilitating network meetings.** In 2017 and 2018, Fairfield City Council was a member of the Youth Mental Health Summit (YMHS) Steering Committee and also hosted exhibitor stalls at the Expo session where they recruited Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members from the YMHS participants.



South West Connect would like to thank Fairfield City Council for their support through their active involvement as a Host Employer over the past decade and for supporting us as a community tenant since 2006 in the offices at the Bossley Park Community Centre .



SELECTED PROGRAMS



RIEP + SWC Class Chefs



This opportunity presented to us is the closest we will come to working in the real hospitality industry during this stage of our lives, and it really has opened up a whole new perspective for all of us, it has shown us the reality of what this industry will be like (to work in). It has built our confidence and our cooking skills tremendously and what we have learnt today and are continuing to learn will stick with us forever.

- Lina



Class Chefs is a unique event allowing High School Hospitality students to gain real life, commercial experience and work practices. For one night only, students take over the restaurant to create a delicious 3 course menu with the support of the Head Chef.

VET Hospitality students often team up with Performing Arts students to deliver a night of good food and live entertainment prepared, served and performed by high school students.

To achieve a high customer ratio, a subsidised special pricing is charged, this allows more parents, teachers and members of the public to enjoy

the experience without it being a huge financial burden.

Students showcase their skills as part of their course assessment and guests are patient, supportive and understanding during the Class Chefs event. RIEP Class Chefs is a collaboration with two industry leading commercial restaurants with a strong reputation in the community. They are Cucina 105 in Liverpool and Bellbird Dining & Bar at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. Both employers regularly host student workplacements from SWC. They have professional chefs and service staff that have a strong track record of providing quality advice and





Class Chefs 2019

3 SCHOOLS



91 TOTAL STUDENTS

46 VET Hospitality students
45 Music & TAS students

100%
FOOD SATISFACTION



98%
SERVICE SATISFACTION

256
CUSTOMERS



701
DRINKS SERVED

1042 DISHES



Prepared & served by students

7 more Class Chefs events planned for 2020

support to students about career pathways in the hospitality industry. Their best practice approach helps students to understand the expectations of both the customers and the employer. This encourages students to build on important employability skills that are needed to succeed in the workplace.

The response from customer surveys was an astounding 100% satisfaction rate for food and 99% satisfaction for service. The ambience and buzz during the night was uplifting and inspirational to see what young people can achieve when given an opportunity to shine.

All students and teachers that contributed to make the event a massive success were presented with a framed certificate each at the acknowledgement presentation ceremony.

Seven more Class Chefs events have been scheduled for 2020, including Catholic, Independent and NSW DOE schools. It is envisaged that a total of 250 students will be involved, including 160 VET Hospitality Students from across 11 High Schools (one event will be jointly hosted by 2 schools). An estimated total of 3,500 dishes and 2,300 drinks will be served to nearly 1,000 paying customers.





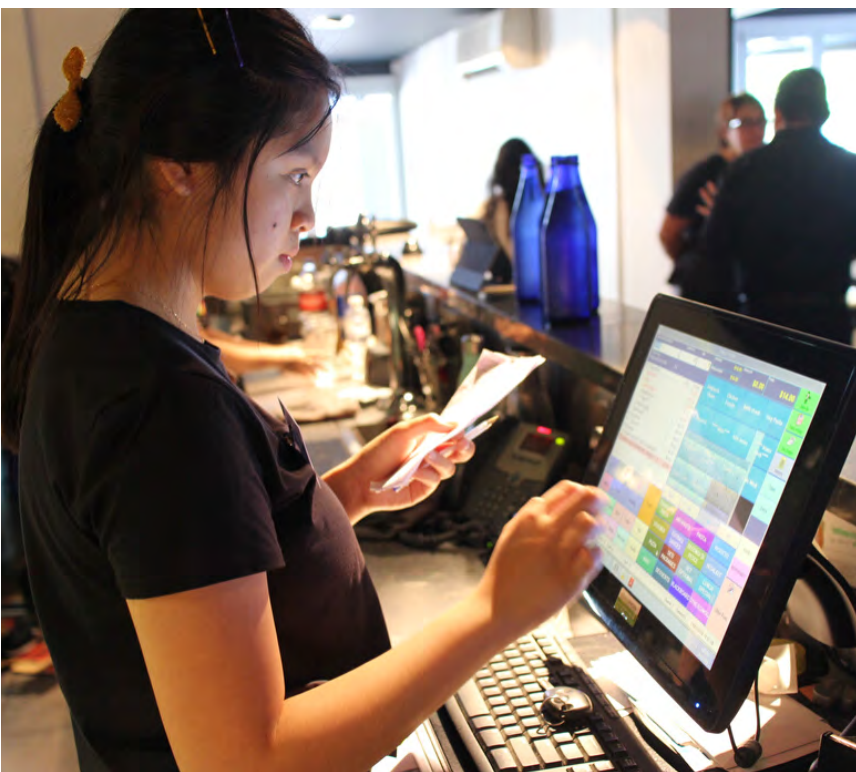
“
Class Chefs made me more confident and sociable to the customers. It made me more experienced for the future.
- Stacey-Leigh”

“
I think it's a brilliant idea for these kids especially for year 12 students getting out of school getting into the real world using a bit of hospitality as their background to make a little bit of money I think is a great idea. It just shows me that there is potential for the next generation to one day have a restaurant or own a café ...
- Angelo Cucchiaro, Director and owner of multiple restaurants and cafés”

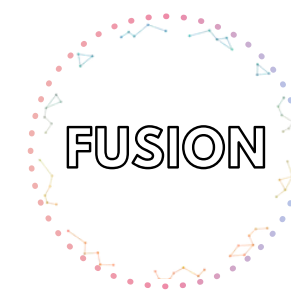


Class Chefs develops my real life waiter experience in fine dining restaurant, customer services, confident improvement, world's standard restaurant set up, professional dressing and team working.
- Henglay

It was an eye opening experience that would definitely not be something experienced in a classroom. Everything felt very real, especially when the customers all require different needs which ventured out of the textbook. The restaurant and operations implemented was definitely a new aspect of hospitality.
- John



FUSION: An Aged and Youth Partnership



Thank You to our Local Clubs

The **ClubGRANTS** funding has allowed us to enhance the impact of this project by providing the opportunity to a broad range of young people to connect with a diverse group of aged residents. We are grateful for the support.

ClubGRANTS
Proudly supporting the community



FUSION is an aged and youth empowerment volunteer program for high school students. The program bridges the cultural and generational gap and promotes careers and volunteering in aged care and healthcare.

FUSION encourages, supports and increases participating in volunteering at an early age and assists students in making the transition from school to work while enhancing their employability skills.


Since the first FUSION session in 2014, over 380 students from Canley Vale, Prairiewood, Liverpool Boys, Miller Technology and Bossley Park High School have taken part in the program.

More than 200 aged care residents

have benefited from the regular interaction with young people in the FUSION program. More than 6,000 hours has been volunteered with some students continuing to volunteer in their own time after the formal program had ended.

Funding for the majority of FUSION programs has been made possible through the contribution of our local clubs through the NSW ClubGRANTS scheme.

SWC would like to take the opportunity to thank Cabra-Vale Diggers Club, Fairfield RSL, Mounties Group, Club Marconi and St Johns Park Bowling Club for their ongoing support of this project that connects cultures, generations and provides employment pathways through volunteering in aged care.

91% 

of students that volunteered at FUSION said they had developed life skills that will benefit them in the future.

94% 

of FUSION volunteers say that volunteering improved their mood.

Since 2014, FUSION has seen:

FUSION



**6,295 HOURS
VOLUNTEERED**



**384 STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED**



**187 SESSIONS
VISITED**

Connecting cultures, generations & employment pathways through volunteering in Aged Care

FUSION encourages, supports & increases participation in volunteering at an early age. It assists students in making the transition from school to work by enhancing their life & employability skills.

It improves the self-esteem, physical & mental health of the aged residents through regular interaction, especially for residents who may not have relatives living nearby that are able to visit regularly.

Each session, a group of students visit the aged care centre to interact with residents. A buddy system is thoughtfully worked through, looking at language & culture, abilities & interest.

Benefits & Objectives:

- Students learn about the Healthcare & Aged Care industry, how to care for the residents & the pathways they can follow to start a career in this industry.
- Students can use these skills with their own grandparents or continue to volunteer in the community.
- It provides employment pathways, skills & knowledge about the aged care & health care industry for students.
- Bridging the generational gap by sharing values and respect for our diversity, culture & heritage
- Increasing awareness & issues related to health & the ageing population
- Improving community connectedness & social inclusion

SummitCare RESIDENTS WERE ASKED:

How do you feel about being part of the FUSION Program?

"Makes
me
happy"

"Fulfilled"

"Fun,
Enjoyment,
Cultural"

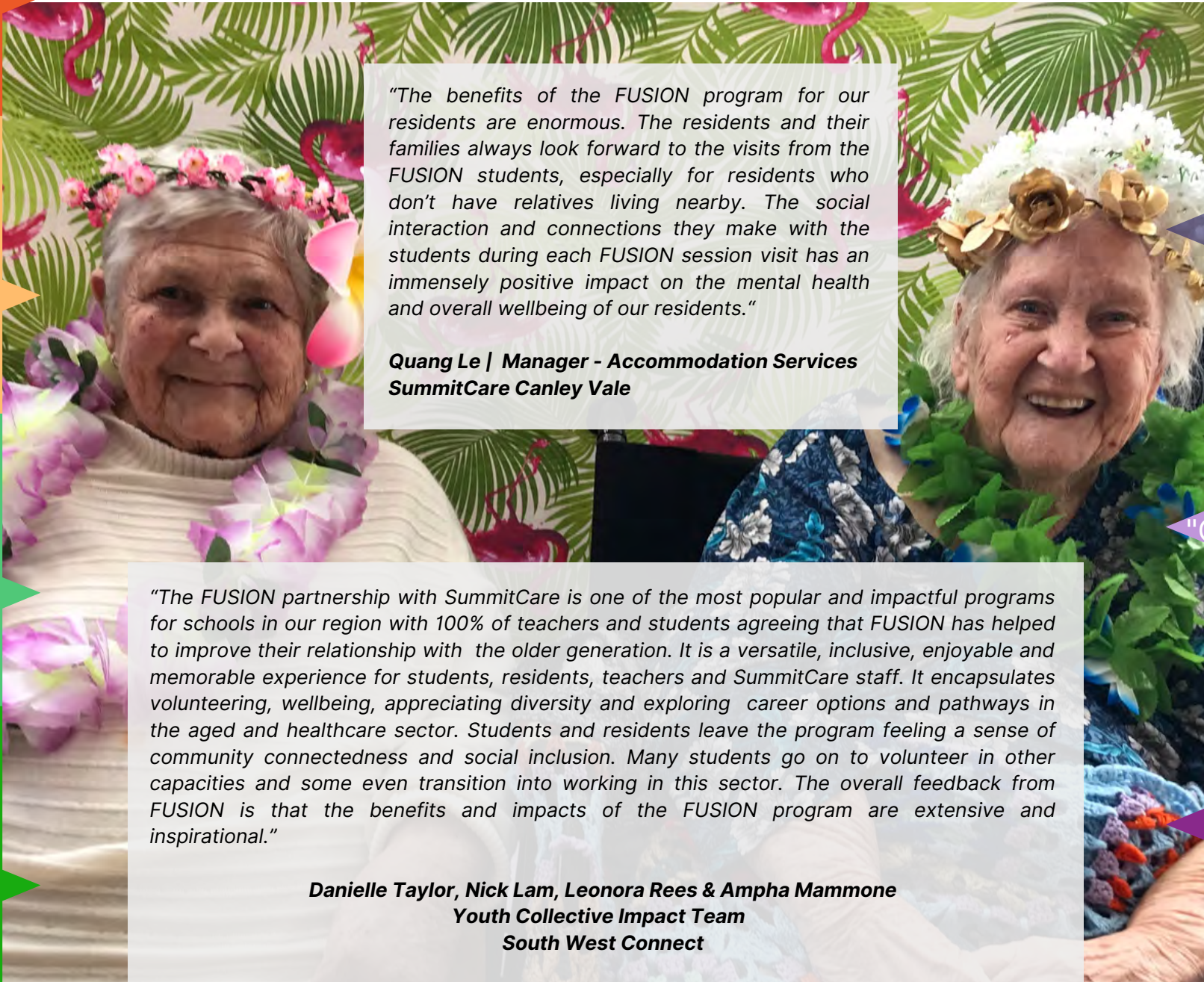
"When I see
the children it
makes me
happy"

"Makes me
proud to be
accepted as
part of this
community
program"

"Companionship"

"I feel
useful and
enjoy the
children's
company"

"Engaged
with others"



"The benefits of the FUSION program for our residents are enormous. The residents and their families always look forward to the visits from the FUSION students, especially for residents who don't have relatives living nearby. The social interaction and connections they make with the students during each FUSION session visit has an immensely positive impact on the mental health and overall wellbeing of our residents."

**Quang Le | Manager - Accommodation Services
SummitCare Canley Vale**

"The FUSION partnership with SummitCare is one of the most popular and impactful programs for schools in our region with 100% of teachers and students agreeing that FUSION has helped to improve their relationship with the older generation. It is a versatile, inclusive, enjoyable and memorable experience for students, residents, teachers and SummitCare staff. It encapsulates volunteering, wellbeing, appreciating diversity and exploring career options and pathways in the aged and healthcare sector. Students and residents leave the program feeling a sense of community connectedness and social inclusion. Many students go on to volunteer in other capacities and some even transition into working in this sector. The overall feedback from FUSION is that the benefits and impacts of the FUSION program are extensive and inspirational."

**Danielle Taylor, Nick Lam, Leonora Rees & Ampha Mammone
Youth Collective Impact Team
South West Connect**

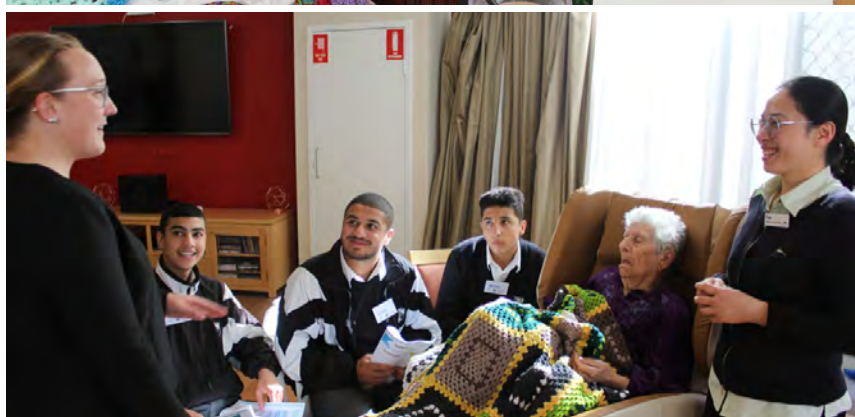
FUSION made me feel good because we got to interact with elderly people and keep them company and make them laugh.

- Halim



FUSION made me realise that time is precious and so you need to make your time with others extra special, and make them feel loved no matter their needs.

-Alena



FUSION helped me become more confident in communication, empathy and leadership and also more confident in asking for help.

- Maryna





Future Links Future Ready

Made possible through funding by Cabra-Vale Diggers Club, this project has allowed SWC to partner with local schools & businesses to deliver a unique & innovative approach to navigating careers and connecting with employers. Through a series of interactive sessions, participants have been inspired and motivated to take action after gaining the skills and resources to help them overcome common barriers.

There are 4 main components of the project, which were delivered throughout the year:

- Future Links Career Workshops and Seminars
- Career Explorer Tours (including tertiary education options)
- Future Links Skills Journal (to log career options and aspirations)
- Mentoring & Volunteering



Most of these students don't understand the social and financial responsibilities of adult life and don't have the motivation to find work after school because they learn strategies in a school context, not in a workplace context. The Future Links Future Ready Workshop did a fantastic job in giving the students a 'reality check' of their future selves to motivate them to find work after school. Future Links goes beyond what schools are currently able to do with our students.

- High School Teacher



The girls were enthusiastic and excited meeting so many women with successful careers and were inspired by listening to their stories and advice.

- High School Teacher



(This program) allowed me to build knowledge that will help me towards deciding my future career

- Vanessa



Inspiring Women & Inspiring Apprentices

SWC lead a group of 80 female students from across local High Schools in attending the **Inspiring Women** event in Liverpool CBD with a total of 200 participants. By introducing young people to successful women working in different roles and industries, the aim is to enhance understanding of the breadth of career opportunities available, challenge gendered stereotypes about occupations and give young people the chance to ask questions and make connections with female role models.

The **Inspiring Apprentices** event introduced 300 students to careers in the construction industry. This included an array of employers ranging from traditional trades like plumber and electrician through to innovative engineering roles that project manage large multi billion dollar projects like the Metro Rail line. Both these events involved a panel discussion followed by a career speed networking session. There was also an expo component allowing participants to speak with and collect information from stall holders.

Youth Action : What's Up West

SWC lead a group of 30 students to attend the **What's Up West** Youth Convention in Parramatta CBD. The theme 'OUR TIME IS NOW!' looked at ways to empower young people, exploring the connections, diversity and livability of Western Sydney.

Throughout the 2 days, students participated in interactive sessions and learning life skills in practical groups and were able to:

- Hear directly from inspirational young leaders who saw a need in the world and acted on that
- Learn how to advocate for what they believe in and get skilled-up to create change in their own community and the world
- Find out about volunteering opportunities to make a real, lasting difference in the community
- Learn real-life practical skills like managing your cash and taking care of your medical records and so much more



Future Ready & Transition Ready (Speed Networking & Mentoring Session)

(In the Future Links Future Ready Tour) I got to see what I could be when I'm older.

- Jordan



SWC partnered with Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield (PBC) to mentor year 6 primary school students transitioning to high school from Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School (OLR), with a total of 120 participants. PBC students had the opportunity to develop their leadership and communication skills by mentoring OLR students in a speed networking event. By sharing their strategies for a successful transition to high school, the High School students were able to reflect on the same skills (communication, teamwork, problem solving etc) that would help them make a successful transition to the workplace.



STEP Up To Success

The program works with young Aboriginal leaders and their peers to train them to build resilience and life skills in raising their aspirations and financial literacy skills which empowers them with the confidence to excel in class and in life. The STEP Up to Success program comprises of multiple layers of activities and programs that lift the aspirations of the students and encourage them to dream about their futures.

These include structured workshops and aspirational tours. Importantly, it provides students with foundation skills of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) which help create social cohesion within the classroom and playground. The Second STEP resilience and problem solving program has had a positive impact on the students through a sustained and intensive focus on SEL skills.



“ One student has been experiencing anxiety due to bullying in the playground. The student usually becomes sick due to anxiety as a result from being bullied. (After the program) this student is now dealing with the issue better in the playground and talking to me about it and has not shown any signs of anxiety since.
- Primary School Teacher



Cirque du Soleil Tour

As part of the "Aspirational Tour" component of STEP Up to Success participants went to see 'Kurios' by the world famous Cirque du Soleil. Students started the day with a tour of the Entertainment Quarter & discovered possible pathway options. Then students participated in a speed networking activity with the high school students

mentoring the primary school students in transitioning to high school and other life skills, whilst enjoying a nice Italian dinner at Fratelli Fresh before the show. The bus ride home was eventful, with everyone still buzzing from the show, singing and dancing until we arrived back at each respective school around midnight!



It boosted my confidence and also helped me communicate better with others.

- Julie

I feel more prepared as I was introduced to some factual information about the most important parts of high school. I feel excited instead of scared about going to high school

- Jessica

It made me think more about my future. It was good to know that I'm in charge of my own future.

- Aaliyah

Transition to High School

SWC delivers 'Transition to High School' workshops to an entire cohort of Year 6 students, about to embark on the journey to high school. The workshops build on skills already gained in other SEL programs and has a strong focus on the strategies that students can practice to succeed in high school. A discussion about similarities and differences often helps alleviate most fears or concerns that students have about moving from primary to high school. The session also covers practical information such as how to read a high school timetable, prioritising multiple demands for different subjects & teachers and understanding support networks available in high school.



Leadership Success Skills

The SWC leadership programs helps young people to unlock their leadership potential. Developing leadership skills at an early stage helps them to better transition into high school and the world of work.

Topics covered included skills for success, coping with stress, managing expectations, assertive communication, problem solving, resilience, responsible decision making as well as collaboration, influencing and presentation skills.



This (workshop) experience was helpful as it covered all areas and prepared us for the job and trying out to become a Student Executive. The games we played were fun yet helpful in preparing us. The workshop experience has helped me to communicate more and meet new people.

- Sara

Our Lady of the Rosary & Patrician Brothers' College

SWC partnered with Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School Fairfield (OLR) to deliver a Social & Emotional Learning Program, Second STEP for Years 6 which incorporated:

- Transition to high school (new friends, situations & expectations)
- Responsible decision making,
- Problem solving & Leadership Skills for success (at school & work)
- Goal setting (explore future pathways)
- Coping with stress (exams, NAPLAN)
- Assertive communication & more

Towards the end of the program, SWC brought together 20 high school students from Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield (PBC) to mentor over 100 students from OLR in a Speed Networking Workshop.



This workshop has helped me change because I was really shy but now I know how to speak in front of people.

- Ahmed



This workshop taught me how to calm down when I am feeling afraid or any other emotions.

- Chun



“ It helped me cope with being scared and always worried. It also helped me in getting used to my new school.
- **Tharaka** ”



“ Students learn about what skills are required to succeed in school and at work and develop an understanding of how what they are learning now in school will help them in the future.
- **Primary School Assistant Principal** ”



STEPS to a Brighter Future & Dream Big For A Better Future

Funded by Cabra-Vale Diggers Club through ClubGRANTS, this initiative helps disadvantaged primary school students facing bullying and generational welfare dependency by providing resilience and life/financial skills and raises their aspirations to provide them with the confidence to excel in class and in life.

This program includes an Aspirational Behind the Scenes and Future Links Tour to help participants connect with adult role models in a workplace setting and to start seeing a better future for themselves.

Disadvantaged students are likely to underperform, disengage from education and leave school early. “Dream Big for a Better Future” takes a collective impact approach, bringing together the education, business and community sectors and is underpinned by Evidence Based Programs including World Health Organisation endorsed programs, delivered by facilitators trained to get the best from participants.



The SWC program approach works well because it comprises of multiple layers of activities and programs that lift the aspirations of the students and encourage them to dream about their futures. Importantly it provides students with foundation skills of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) which help create social cohesion within the classroom and playground.

- Primary School Assistant Principal

I now want to become an engineer, so I will go to university.

- Duc



COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

“

A couple of years ago, the students at this school had no aspirations. They would have just taken over their family's business, worked alongside them, or even just go on the dole like their parents. After programs like Second STEP and the Future Links Tours, students have been actively talking about their future, what jobs they want and where they want to study in the future.

- Primary School Teacher

”

Big Dreams, Bigger Futures Program

The Communities for Children Facilitating Partner (CfC FP) Initiative Fairfield is funded by the Australian Government and facilitated by The Smith Family. **This project works with primary schools to support children's motivation and aspirations to become engaged in meaningful activities and career education.**

It also supports children to successfully transition through different life stages and to handle related social and emotional challenges.

SWC has been a Community Partner since 2015, with our Big Dreams, Bigger Futures project

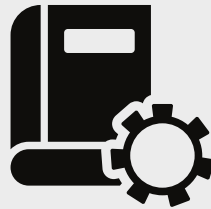
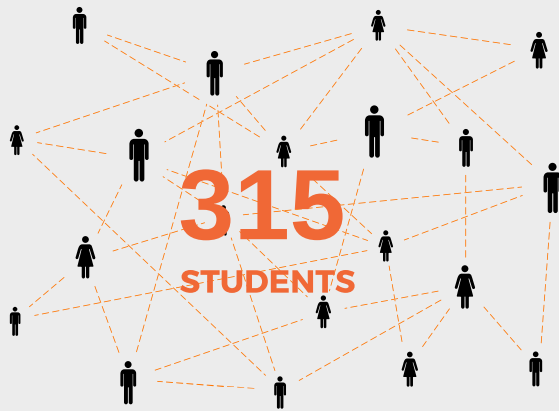
incorporating a wide range of activities including the Mini Seek a Skill Expos where close to 3,000 students from 12 primary schools over a period of 2 years had an opportunity to meet with industry representatives and try their hand at a work related project.

These mini projects allowed participants to start the conversation with their parents about the various career options and pathways they could explore whilst in school. Some of these participants also took part in the Aspirational Behind the Scenes and Future Links Tours which further broadened their horizons and possibilities beyond high school.

A key focus for SWC is “Fairfield children and families feel empowered to engage with life-long aspirations through education, life skills and employment; and are well-prepared to handle life transitions.”

SWC is extremely proud of this aspect given that 5 former students that participated in Mini Seek a Skill in 2015 have gone on to accept an apprenticeship in 2019. Their early introduction to careers in trade and speaking with professionals about the skills and attributes required to succeed has helped them achieve this. This reinforces the importance of lifting career and life aspirations at an early age.

Big Dreams, Bigger Futures Impact 2019

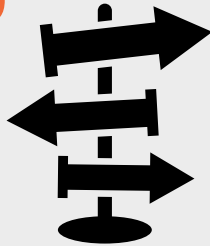


64
EVIDENCE BASED
PROGRAM SESSIONS



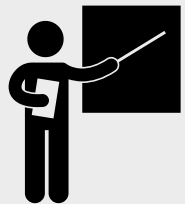
100%

of participants
discovered new
skills, resources
and career and
education
pathway
options



95%

of participants
were inspired to
set goals and make
plans to achieve
them

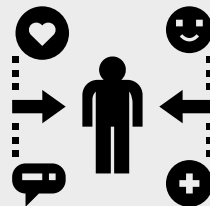


100%

of Teachers reported
positive impact of
program

98%

of students reported positive impact of program
(these include increased engagement at school,
improved problem solving and better decision
making skills leading to reduced conflict and
incidents at school)



One of my students was not actively involved before the program but after the lessons in Second STEP, I could definitely see a change in him. He became a lot more confident to engage in activities.

- Primary School Teacher



When you taught us to "STOP, NAME YOUR FEELING, CALM DOWN", the first time I did that when I was angry, it didn't work. But when I did it by myself, alone in a quiet spot, it worked. Now I use it anytime I need to, so your advice worked.....Thanks for teaching me how to control my body.

- Joy



Aspirational Behind the Scenes & Future Links Tours

These tours provide students with a rare opportunity to meet people in the workforce and ask them questions to link the skills they are learning in school with the skills required to succeed in the real world.

Participants travel by bus to visit different venues to learn about career options and education pathways. Students are guided and supported by SWC facilitators to gain important information and discover services and support networks that will help them on the path to creating a successful future.

The Tours are usually offered as an extension of Second STEP and the topics covered during the tour include:

- Career Pathways & Goal Setting
- Wellbeing & Support Networks
- Transition to high school, TAFE, university

Students receive a showbag containing a range of resources and items to help them with their career exploration journey. The main tool is the “Future Links Activity Workbook” which is not only a great compass during the tour, many students use it to set and achieve goals and also as a reference to successfully transition into high school.

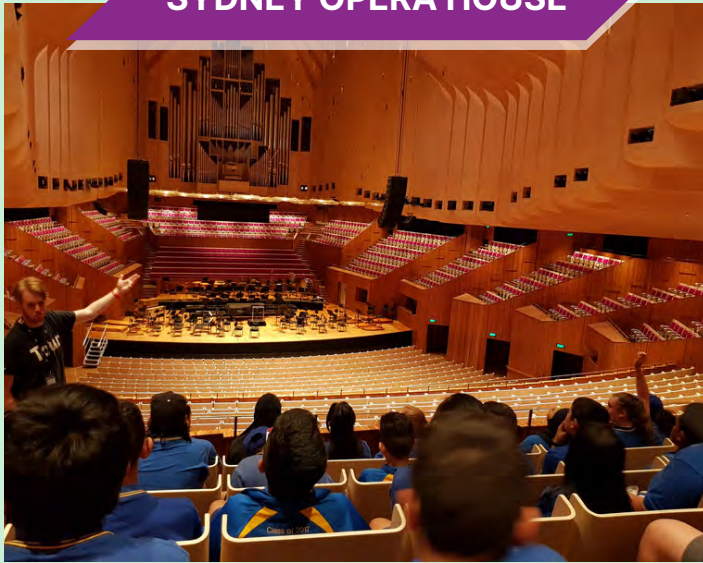


The students got to see a huge variety of careers and goals on the Future Links Tour. There was so much information for the students about higher education and training options, the students learnt a lot about TAFE, colleges, and universities. The University of Sydney was fantastic and made university achievable for the students.

- Primary School Teacher



SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE



LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL



SYDNEY TOWER RESTAURANT





I didn't think that I could get into Uni, but after this tour, I believe I can get into Sydney University if I set the right goals.

- Jacob



Students are more motivated to study so that they can go to university.

- Primary School Teacher





Second STEP: Resilience and Problem Solving

Students have shown improvement in their conflict resolution skills and require less teacher intervention in social disagreements in the classroom and playground. In particular, the boys have been involved in less physical altercations. Teachers have also reported that students are displaying more empathy in the classroom and that their cooperative learning and teamwork skills have improved. Students in the Opportunity Class were more emotionally prepared for the Selective High School test than they have been in the past, thanks to the focus on self-calming strategies during Second STEP.

- Primary School Assistant Principal

The Second STEP program is an Evidence Based Program (EBP), designed to teach children social and emotional learning skills, including how to understand and manage their emotions, control their reactions, be aware of others' feelings and have the skills to problem-solve and make responsible decisions.

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is how children and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and control emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

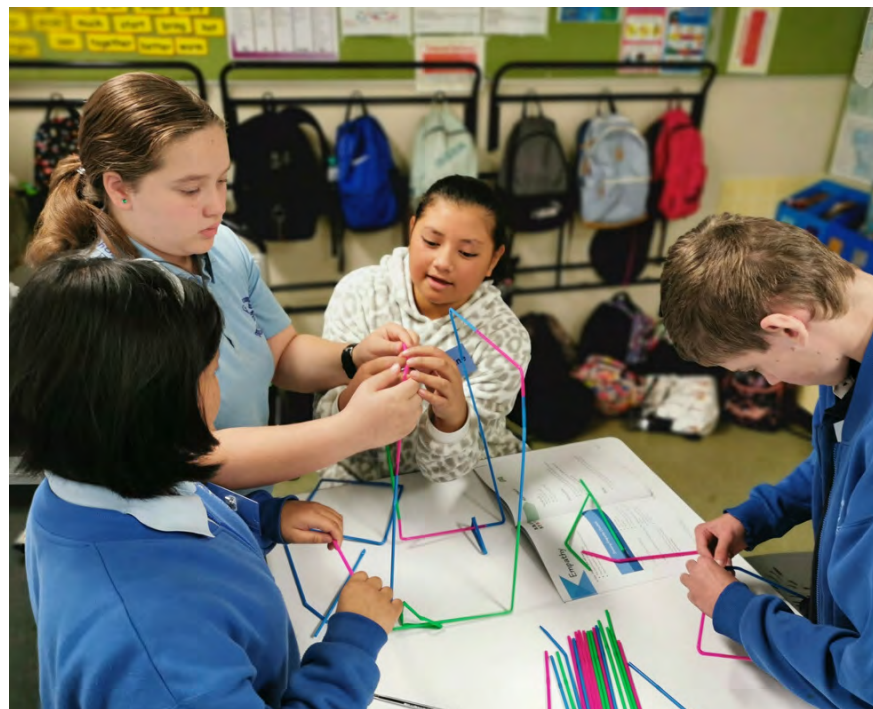
Research shows that students with strong SEL skills have more coping strategies to manage stressful situations, including peer pressure, bullying and exams such as NAPLAN, HSC and other major exams.

Longer term research also shows that teaching students SEL skills like perseverance, collaboration and self-control can improve their health, academic achievement, career success and happiness in life.

SWC has delivered more than 815 SEL EBP program sessions including Second STEP and FRIENDS for Life since 2015.

The EAL/D students, many refugees, became more confident to cope with conflict situations both in the classroom & playground.

- Primary School Teacher



Second STEP is the most helpful thing to control my own future, it's THE BEST.

-Rita

Students are now able to verbalise their thoughts and feelings and due to this they are able to manage their emotions before it becomes a physical reaction.

- Primary School Teacher



How You Can Help

Your generous contribution to South West Connect will help us continue to support **young people to achieve their educational, social and employment potential.**

Fairfield Business Education Partnership Inc. (trading as South West Connect) is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). It is covered by the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Workplacement

Do you want to influence young people's educational outcomes and help them to prepare for the world of work? Your organisation can make a significant difference by hosting a HSC student for workplacement.

Volunteer

If you would like to volunteer your time or resources to help one of our projects or initiatives, please contact the **Youth Collective Impact Team.**

Corporate Partnership

Join us in a partnership that could make a genuine and positive difference in the local community.

Please see our website **www.swconnect.org.au** for further details about the innovative and impactful projects and initiatives that may align with how you or your organisation would like to contribute to our community.



2 EASY WAYS TO DONATE

I would like to contribute to the programs that help South West Connect's Local Community.

Amount Enclosed: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other amount _____

Donation Details:

Name	Telephone
Address	Suburb
E-mail	Post Code

1. MAIL

Please make cheque payable to:
Fairfield Business Education Partnership Inc.

Send Cheque or Money Order to:
PO Box 68, Edensor Park, NSW 2176

OR

2. INTERNET BANKING (EFT)

Our bank details are as follows:

Commonwealth Bank

BSB: **062 736**

Account No: **1006 4734**

Account Name: **Fairfield Business Education Partnership Inc.** (Please mark ref: Donation)

For further information on how you could financially assist our services please speak to Ampha Mammone or Jayne Occhiuto on 9822 9370.

(02) 9822 9370 Workplacement Team - select option 1
Youth Collective ImpactTeam - select option 2

(02) 9822 9502

info@swconnect.org.au

www.swconnect.org.au



SOUTH WEST CONNECT



SWC would like to thank schools, businesses, community organisations, volunteers and participants for their support and contribution towards a better future for the youth in our region.

If you or your organisation would like to know more about our initiatives, volunteer, or if you can provide any assistance with current projects, or even a new project proposal to help our local youth, please contact us.



Watch videos about our programs at <https://www.swconnect.org.au/videos>



South West Connect is a not for profit organisation and a registered charity with deductible gift recipient status, complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission framework.
All donations made to SWC over \$2 are tax deductible.



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