

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.



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"

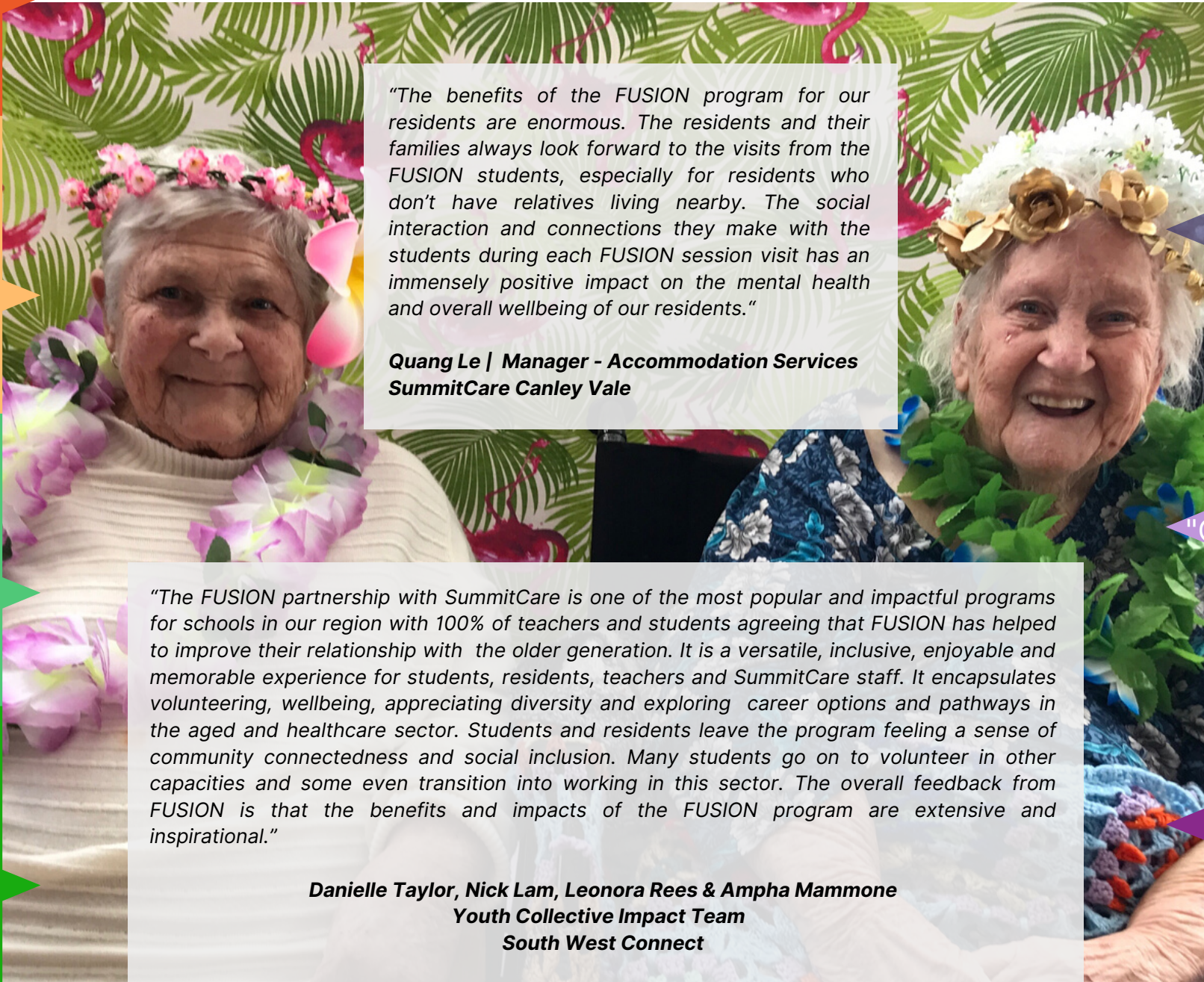
"When I see
the children it
makes me
happy"

"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

