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2022 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT



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Connecting YOUTH
to Success



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SouthWestConnect



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SWConnect



SOUTH WEST CONNECT

South West Connect (SWC) works 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.

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 to the community.

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.

WORK PLACEMENT

Work Placement is a one-week placement with businesses, to enhance skills students learnt 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 Higher School Certificate.

YOUTH COLLECTIVE IMPACT

SWC works with schools, community organisations and businesses to help young people discover pathways to a better future by enriching their educational, social and employment potential.

Automotive work placement student at David's Auto



Student volunteers and Aged Care residents creating connections and improving wellbeing through arts and craft activities at Project CARE



facebook.com/SouthWestconnect



youtube.com/user/SWConnect



twitter.com/SthWestConnect



PO Box 68 Edensor Park NSW, 2176, Bossley Park Community Centre, Belfield Rd Bossley Park ABN 45 399 482 621



CONTENTS

Pages

2-6 INTRODUCTION

- 4 About Us
- 5 Acknowledgement of The Darug Nation
- 6 Corporate Governance

7-17 WORK PLACEMENT

- 7 Work Placements: A Solution to Skills Shortages
- 8-9 2022 Workplace Learning
- 10-11 Work Placement Support & Benefits
- 12 VET & Student Work Ethic Awards
- 13 Workplace Learning Network
- 14-15 Region E Environmental Scan
- 16-17 Background & Our Diverse Community

18-23 CONNECTING YOUTH TO SUCCESS

- 18-19 An overview of SWC Initiatives
- 20-21 SWC Impact 2022
- 22 Our Purpose
- 23 Our Strategic Focus

24-27 COLLABORATION FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

- 24 Youth Collective Impact Team
- 25 SWC Partnership with The Department of Education
- 25 Regional Industry Education Partnerships
- 25 Educational Pathways Program
- 26 Partnership with Fairfield City Council
- 26 Apprenticeship & Traineeship Expo
- 27 Work Ready & VET Expectations
- 27 Partnership with Flight Deck Airport & Aviation Careers

28-37 SELECTED PROGRAMS

- 28-29 Regional Industry Education Partnerships & SWC Class Chefs
- 30-31 Project CARE (Compassion, Aspiration, Respect, Empower)
- 32-33 VET Students Careers Summit
- 34 Ambition+ PLUS
- 35 Dare to Dream Big
- 35 Transition to High School Program
- 36 Mini Seek A Skill
- 37 Mini Career Mentors

38 BECOME A WORK PLACEMENT HOST EMPLOYER

39 HOW YOU CAN HELP



“My work placement allowed me to experience working in teams as well as working under pressure and helped me to get out of my comfort zone and I'm glad I did it.
-Justin, Work Placement Student”



Retail Services work placement student at Chester Square Pharmacy

ABOUT US

SWC has a proven track record of empowering over 103,000 young people in South West Sydney to discover pathways to a better future for themselves and their families.

The **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.



SWC services "Region E" covering 3 LGA's:



LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

Students at the VET Summit Photobooth

WORKPLACE LEARNING TEAM

WHAT WE DO

Organises a one-week work placement in businesses for VET students to enhance the skills learnt in the classroom and to help prepare students for the workplace.



Student Work Placements



Year 11 VET Work Ready & Student Guide

WE VALUE ADD BY



Preparing for Work Experience



Year 12 The Next Step



Mock Interviews



Preparing for Part Time Employment

YCIT

Youth Collective Impact Team

WHAT WE DO

Creates & delivers initiatives & projects to inspire, develop & empower young people to achieve their potential.

HOW WE DO IT



Early Intervention Programs



Youth Volunteer Programs



Capacity Building



Masterclasses



Careers Development



Expos / Summits



Career Immersion Tours



Workshops

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

Region E Population

3,832 - Liverpool City

1,523 - Fairfield City

143 - Merrylands Central



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics data (2021 Census).

Photo of Fairfield City sourced from The Fairfield City Council

THE CABROGAL CLAN OF THE DARUG NATION

South West Connect would like to acknowledge the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging of the Darug Nation and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

Western Sydney Aboriginal people come from the Darug, Gandangarra and Dharawal peoples. The Cabrogal people (Cah-bro-gal) are tribe of the Darug people whose traditional lands were around Cabramatta Creek which feeds into the Georges River Basin. This area extended over what is known today as Fairfield and Liverpool areas.

To the west of Cabramatta creek, the Cabramatta, Prospect and Orphan School Creek areas afforded an environment that was rich in aquatic and plant life and the hinterland of the hills and forests further west provided excellent area for hunting and farming. According to archaeological evidence, aboriginal people here have been living in Western Sydney region for over 30,000 years.

The Sydney basin is one of the richest in Australia “pre-historic sites” comparable to the Kakadu N National Park, recent archaeological investigation for a section of the M7 motorway at Cowpasture Rd revealed 88 Aboriginal campsites as well as scarred trees, rock shelters with art and other isolated artefacts.

The Fairfield district has found many stone artefacts close to permanent water sources- along creeks and riverbanks. Artefacts found include stone tools, scarred trees (for canoe and shield making), axe-sharpening or grinding grooves, birthing and burial sites. Coastal people identified Cabrogal people as “tomahawk people” as the stone axe was critical to their daily lives and was carried everywhere.

The Cabrogal name comes from the Cobra or Cabra grub, an edible freshwater worm that breeds in submerged wood. Cabramatta is a word from the Darung language which is the name for “Cobra, place of water/creek”. The Cobra worm was a source of food for the Cabrogal people. The Cobra is actually a mollusc with a long worm like body that occurs in the trunks of submerged or flooded trees. There is evidence that Aboriginal people harvested the worms by placing logs in the water, pulling up the logs, using tools to extract the worms, and replacing the logs for a regular supply of food.

The areas around Fairfield, Bossley Park, Cabramatta, and St Johns Park were flood plains, creating fertile soil for farming. The land was covered in grey box trees and grassy forests that the early settlers found to be good sheep and cattle grazing country. Initially settlers had trouble navigating the flood plains and would have their farming washed away. Aboriginal people however understood the land, they regularly burnt back trees to promote grass growth to attract animals such as the grey Kangaroo and they knew how to fish and farm the area.

Smallpox was introduced in 1789 by British settlers and devastated the Aboriginal population, including the Cabrogal people. The 1828 census listed only 20 Aboriginals from the “Liverpool tribe” in the area.

Jayne Occhiuto - Executive Director

Researched by Dominique Ghabby

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Fairfield Business Education Partnership (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.

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (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>

FBEP Board of Directors

CHAIRPERSON

Susan Turner *(Industry)*

PUBLIC OFFICER

Michael Foulkes *(Industry)*

FBEP TREASURER

Jayne Occhiuto *(Industry)*

BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Kenneth Edge *(NSW DoE)*

BOARD MEMBER

Christine Shakya *(Education Consultant)*

BOARD MEMBER

Michael Morris *(Sydney Catholic Schools)*



Construction work placement student at Ground Tech



Primary Industries work placement student at Calmsley Hill City Farm

WORK PLACEMENTS : A SOLUTION TO SKILLS SHORTAGES

Over 90 per cent of businesses are experiencing workforce shortages, according to the 2022 Workforce Skills Survey, from the state's peak business organisation, Business NSW.

"The business community in NSW is facing its most significant workforce challenge in more than 50 years," said Business NSW Chief Executive Daniel Hunter.

"The survey results clearly indicate it is a whole of workforce issue – with almost half of businesses reporting that it is as equally difficult to fill entry level positions as experienced roles," Mr Hunter said. This trend of staff shortages across all sectors is unlikely to shift in the near future.

Businesses that want to increase their talent pool options can host a work placement student and provide an opportunity for young people to apply the

skills they've gained in the classroom in a practical setting.

Many businesses successfully recruit students after seeing the student in action during their one week work placement.

Becoming a VET work placement Host Employer is a move in the right direction towards helping to alleviate the skills shortage crisis across many sectors.

EMPLOYER BENEFITS FROM HOSTING STUDENTS



PRODUCTIVITY

Improve efficiencies by allocating basic tasks to students



TRAINING

Provide existing employees with management and training development opportunities



COMMUNITY

Contribute to the community by supporting an HSC student



2022 WORK PLACEMENTS ORGANISED BY SWC*



173,320 HOURS

total work placement hours completed by Region E students



24,760 DAYS

total work placement days completed by Region E students



95 YEARS

total work placement years completed by Region E students

*based on 260 work days per year

**Based on 4,952 work placements completed in 2022*

2022 SWC Annual Operational Report

WORK PLACE

2022 Workplace

INDUSTRY CURRICULUM COURSES



Information
& Digital
Technology



Financial
Services



Construction



Automotive



Food &
Beverage



Kitchen
Operations

“I was able to step up like an employee when the team was one team member down. I applied the skills I learnt during my placement and helped out the team.”

-Olivia, Work Placement Student

Business Services work placement student at Officeworks

MENT Learning

Human Services



Retail Services



Business Services



Entertainment Industry



Electro-technology



Primary Industries



Work Placement Host supervising and training a work placement student

4,952 
Work placements completed

8,308 
Work placements organised

3,356 
Work placements cancelled

SWC works with Education and Industry to provide work placement opportunities for Year 11 and 12 students in the Fairfield, Liverpool and Cumberland City Council (LGAs) 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, SWC coordinates and monitors approximately 5,500 work placements for students from 38 high schools, Government, non-Government and 3 TAFE colleges located in the Fairfield, Liverpool, Cumberland, and parts of Canterbury Bankstown LGAs.





SWC works with students from 3 Education Sectors



Catholic Schools
NSW



SWC placed students in work placements for 41 schools/TAFE:

 NSW GOVERNMENT	 Catholic Schools NSW	 ais NSW	 TAFE NSW
25	8	5	3

In addition to Industry Curriculum Courses, SWC placed Board Endorsed Courses including:

- Sport Coaching
- Plumbing
- Hairdressing



Retail Services work placement students at Supercheap Auto

WORK PLACEMENT

SWC supports work placement stakeholders in the following ways:



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



Employers are assigned an **Employer Liaison Consultant** who assists with every aspect of the work placement process. Dedicated **Work Placement Officers** contact the host employer before, during and after the placement. They also are the main point of contact for any issues arising during the placement. Our **Business Development Consultant** recruits new Host Employers and engages with them until they are comfortable to host students regularly.



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



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

SWC services "Region E"
covering 3 LGAs:



SUPPORT

Chefs training Hospitality Kitchen Operations work placement students at Holiday Inn Warwick Farm Hotel

Work placement student benefits:



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

SWC WORK PLACEMENTS YEAR ON YEAR



YEAR



WORK PLACEMENTS
COMPLETED*



WORK PLACEMENTS
ORGANISED



WORK PLACEMENTS
CANCELLED*
(*due to COVID-19)

2019

6,990

-

-

2020

1,676

6,894

5,218*

2021

1,742

6,014

4,272*

2022

4,952

8,308

3,356

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
- VET Student of the Year Award and a gift card (all 36 of our schools offering VET courses)
- VET Student Work Placement Awards as nominated by Host Employers

Student Work Ethic Awards and a gift card 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 diligently and respectfully, the award includes a certificate and a Coles Group & Myer gift card.

145 
Primary & High Schools
in our region were provided Student
Work Ethic Awards and a gift card

SINCE 2006 
2,655
Work Ethic Awards & Gift Cards have
been awarded to students

2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS



VET Student of the Year – Hannah – Retail Services (Right)
Outstanding Work Ethic – Anna (Left)



Outstanding Work Ethic - Year 6 student Jonathon

WORKPLACE LEARNING NETWORK (WLN)

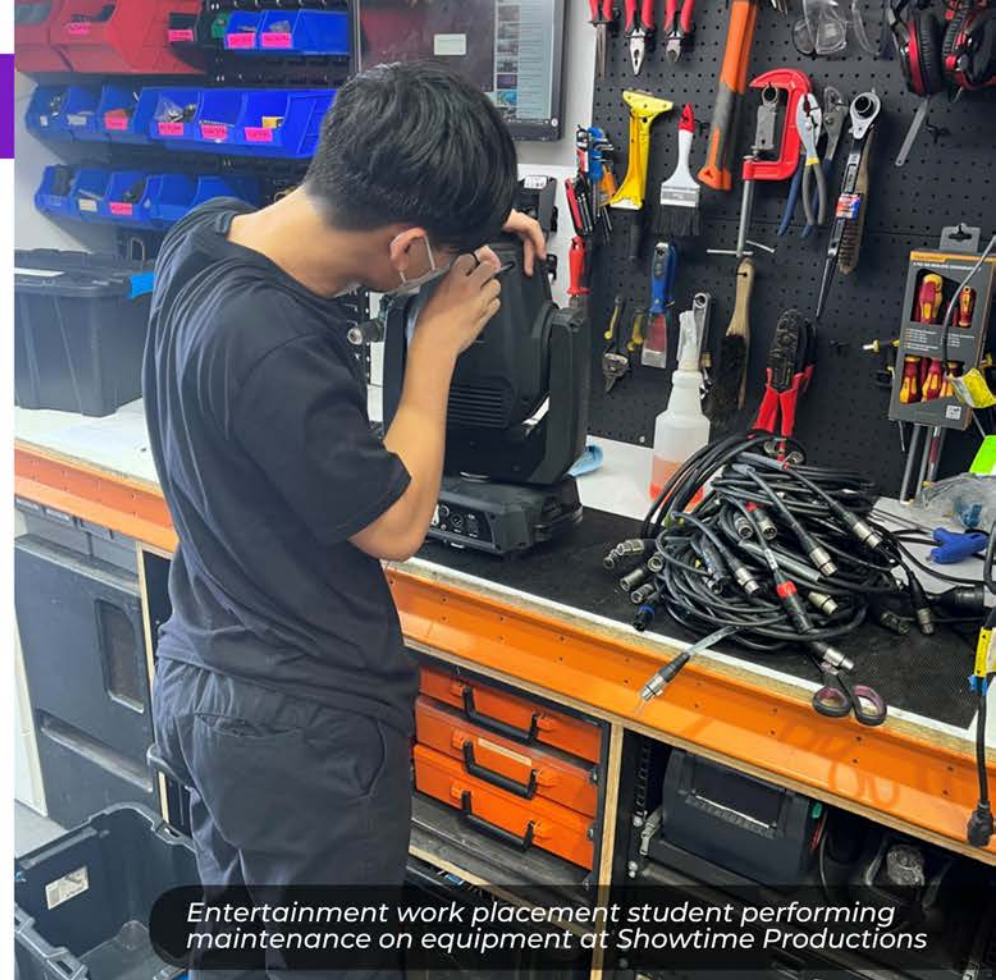
SWC has been an active member of the Workplace Learning Network (WLN) for the past 6 years. The WLN is an association comprised of 16 organisations with a business model that focuses on the youth of NSW. In addition to being a service provider of the Workplace Learning program, the network members have 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.

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.

SWC sourced work placements for

41 Schools/TAFE
in Region E



Entertainment work placement student performing maintenance on equipment at Showtime Productions

**Across NSW, the
WLN reach is:**



16 Regions
Including rural,
regional and
metropolitan



778 High Schools



20,000+
Host Employers in
our network



60,000+
Annual Placements
per year



200
Employees working
with us

SWC services "Region E" covering 3 LGA's:



SWC works with students from 3
Education Sectors:



ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN SERVICE REGION E

SWC Work Placement Coordination Program

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics data (2021 Census) interpreted by South West Connect.



38,448

**REGISTERED
BUSINESSES**

20,824

Non Employing Businesses

38 Industry
Sectors



**ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDERS**

3,832 - Liverpool City
1,523 - Fairfield City
143 - Merrylands Central



230,079

BORN OVERSEAS

LIVERPOOL CITY
53.90% | 100,909

FAIRFIELD CITY
43.20% | 116,652

**MERRYLANDS
CENTRAL**
50.80% | 12,518



129,314
YOUNG PEOPLE

44,877
Primary School Students
AGED 5 TO 11

38,591
High School Students
AGED 12 TO 17

45,846
Tertiary/Young Workforce
AGED 18 TO 24



5.8% POPULATION
GROWTH

441,095 (2016)

468,263 (2021)



**LOCAL
TRANSPORT**

Road
Railway
T-Way
Bus
Motor Vehicle



175,309

EMPLOYMENT & LABOUR FORCE

92.44%

Total Employed
162,054

7.56%

Total Unemployed
13,255



NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

1. Western Sydney International Aerotropolis
2. Airport Commercial Precinct
3. Airport Passenger Terminal Precinct
4. Airport Freight, Logistics and Commercial Precinct
5. Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport



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

15



17,125

EMPLOYING BUSINESSES

16,468 1-19 EMPLOYEES

20-199 EMPLOYEES **627**

30 200+ EMPLOYEES



EMPLOYMENT STATUS

86,678
Full-time

45,872
Part-time

4,979
Other



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Liverpool
Fairfield
Cumberland
Canterbury-Bankstown



LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL



Background & Our Diverse Community

Our community is culturally diverse and has a combined population of 468,263 people, 49.13% 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. (3, 539 refugees and migrants arrived in the region in 2021 compared to 12,100 in 2017 due to border restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic and this number will rise as global tensions increase).

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

This unprecedented growth and development bring opportunity but also a range of challenges for the youth in our community. Many of the young people in our community are from low socio-economic, 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 well-being barriers, and obstacles impeding educational and employment outcomes.

 **60%**
Face socio-economic disadvantage

 **49.1%**
Born Overseas

 People
468,263



Population growth from the construction of the Western Sydney Airport

650,000

People by year 2036

DAI LE, the first Federal MP with refugee background and FRANK CARBONE, Mayor of Fairfield supporting SWC initiatives





Selected SWC initiatives tailored to support the key transition journey



EARLY INTERVENTION

- Social and Emotional Learning skills
 - Parental engagement
- Being 5-10 years old is one of the most crucial periods of students' lives where early intervention strategies are most effective.



STAGE 3 YEAR 5-6

- Year 5 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
- Transitioning from primary to secondary school can be challenging for students in Stage 3 as they adapt to new environments, increased academic expectations, and a larger peer group.



STAGE 4 YEAR 7-8

- Year 7 NAPLAN
- The transition to Stage 4 brings additional challenges as students navigate a more complex curriculum, new subjects, and increased social dynamics within their peer groups.

SWC INITIATIVES IMPROVES STUDENTS'....

SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE

BEHAVIOUR

CONFIDENCE

SWC OUTCOME IMPACT



CAREERS

- Explore & inspire educational / career pathway options
- Success at work placements and develop employability / transferable skills



WELLBEING

- Improving physical & mental health
- Connecting students to service providers and resources
- Building & strengthening support networks



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- Emotion management
- Empathy, perspectives, and resilience
- Problem-solving
- Making responsible decisions

SWC has developed comprehensive initiatives and programs to support young people and help them **navigate through most important transition periods** in their lives to achieve their **educational, social and employment potential**.

These programs are delivered to Primary, High School and Tertiary students focusing on key areas of Careers Exploration & Development, Wellbeing, Social & Emotional Learning.

Throughout their journey students will **build confidence to improve knowledge, behaviour and skills** to excel in school, pursue their interests, and achieve their version of long-term success.

SUCCESS

AN OVERVIEW OF SWC INITIATIVES TO HELP YOUTH NAVIGATE THEIR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS



SWC works with young people aged **5- 25 years old** and their families.

FUTURE
FORWARD

VET SUMMIT
EXPLORE LEARN APPLY ACHIEVE



SWC & RIEP
**CLASS
CHEFS**

WORK PLACEMENT
COORDINATION
PROGRAM NSW

AMBITION
PLUS



SWC PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION



STAGE 6 YEAR 11-12

- Year 11-12 VET Work Placements
 - Year 12 Higher School Certificate (HSC)
- Stage 6 represents the peak of high school education. Students studying VET courses complete their work placements and students have the option to complete the HSC. This is a crucial stage of their lives where they require guidance to make decisions about their future beyond high school.



YEAR 13+

- Tertiary education- TAFE/RTO, university, college
 - Employment- casual, part/full time work
- Students ultimately transition to the world of work, requiring employability skills necessary for success in the workplace.



STAGE 5 YEAR 9-10

- Year 9 NAPLAN
- Year 10 Record of School Achievement (RoSA)
- Year 10 Work Experience

Stage 5 marks a critical period in education where students face the challenges of subject specialisation and preparing for the Higher School Certificate (HSC).

SWC SOURCED WORK PLACEMENTS

INDUSTRY CURRICULUM COURSES



SWC WORK READINESS & EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Year 11 VET
Work Ready &
Student Guide

An industry expert guides participants through work placement expectations, how to successfully meet them and contribute meaningfully. Each participant receives a booklet as a resource for students and parents to best prepare for the one week work placement.



Yr 13
Year 12 The
Next Step

Guides and supports Year 12 students the next steps onto 'Year 13' and beyond.



Mock
Interviews

Opportunity for students to rehearse job interviews and receive feedback from industry experts and gain confidence before the real interview.



Preparing for
Part Time
Employment

Tips on job applications, resume literacy, and interviews for a part time job.



Preparing for
Work Experience

Year 10 work experience expectations and how to successfully meet them.



SWC IMP

GOAL SETTING

91% of participants were inspired to set goals and make plans to achieve them.

91%



SATISFACTION

95% of participants would recommend SWC to their peers and colleagues (because they enjoyed and found it worthwhile to participate in an SWC initiative).

95%



IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE

96% of participants discovered new skills, resources and career and education pathway options.

96%



PARTICIPATION

93% of teachers reported a positive impact of the program (increased confidence, participation and contribution).

93%



POSITIVE IMPACT

94% of students reported a positive impact of the program. These include increased engagement at school, improved problem solving and better decision-making skills leading to reduced conflict and incidents at school.

94%



Mini Seek a Skill Interactive Stall - primary students exploring employability skills in the construction industry

ACT 2022

268

PARTICIPANTS



AMBITION+ PLUS

268 participants from CALD, migrant and refugee backgrounds attended, and all received 12 months of online career support.

347

HOURS



PROJECT CARE

347 hours invested into Project CARE outcomes, aiming to reduce generational & cultural barriers, increasing social cohesion and connectedness.

1,280

STUDENTS



EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

1,280 students across Dare to Dream Big, Skills for Success, Mini Career Mentors, Transition to High School & Mini Seek A Skill.

3,310

WORKSHOPS



VET WORK READY WORKSHOPS

3,310 students developed their employability skills, confidence and ambition through Work Ready sessions, mock interviews and career skills workshops.

1,033

PARTICIPANTS



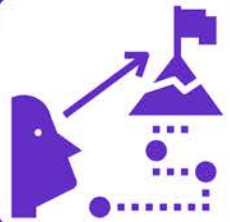
VET SUMMIT & OTHER INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

1,033 participants, engaged in the VET Summit, and other interactive sessions including skills development workshops, Masterclasses, Speed Networking, Q&A session and Kahoot! Quiz and challenges.

Lizard Log Park
East Car Park



OUR PURPOSE



OUR VISION

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

To engage communities, local government and employers, to address the needs of young people transitioning into the workforce.



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 ACTION & COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

We achieve this through our Work Placement 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 pathways to a better future.



OUR MISSION

- Empower young people to achieve their educational, social and employment potential.
- Coordinate work placements that allow students to develop industry-specific competencies, employability skills and appropriate work attitudes in a work environment.
- Support students in career exploration, career decision making and the transition into work.
- Engage with and build relationships with schools and career advisers across our region to promote the importance of career education and workplace learning.

OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS



ENHANCING LIFE & CAREER TRANSITIONS

- Assist in the transition from primary school to high school and then on to tertiary studies or employment.
- Develop employability skills that are relevant and beneficial in school and beyond.
- Strengthen links between what is learnt at school and what is needed in the workplace.
- Increase knowledge and create greater awareness of career paths and career information.



LIFTING ASPIRATIONS

- Encourage young people to lift their aspirations and their goals.
- Improve leadership skills, self-esteem, self-awareness and self-belief to create a better future.
- Increase student engagement and diversify pathway options.
- Encourage goal setting and taking action to achieve goals.

23



IMPROVING WELLBEING

- Teach SEL skills for success to assist young people to better cope with stressful or challenging situations.
- Promote a connected community through initiatives that encourage volunteering, inclusion and social cohesion.
- Promote resilience and empathy through positive Mental Health initiatives.



ADVANCING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- Improve education, social and employment outcomes for young people.
- Break the cycle for young people who have experienced disadvantage.
- Community capacity building & collaborating for greater impact.
- Connect people to networks and resources that enable them to become active and valuable contributors to the community.

COLLABORATION FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT



*Dare to Dream Big - Aspirational
Future Links Tour to Sydney*

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 and pathway options that will allow young people to create their futures.

Since 2006, SWC has been the only organisation in the Fairfield, Liverpool and Cumberland City LGAs to work with all 145 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.



Partnership with The Department of Education (DoE)



SWC has worked in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education (DoE) since 2006, delivering over 71,000 student work placements in that period. SWC partners with Business & Industry on a range of initiatives to help young people successfully transition to work.

WATCH VIDEO



Student Pop Up Café

The **Student Pop Up Café** initiative with Senior Pathways RTO, allowed students to be co-assessed under the guidance of industry experts and their teacher outside of the school environment. It also helps students gain commercial experience, serving up to 100-200 paying customers (breakfast and coffee) within a 3 hour period.

Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP)



WATCH VIDEO



RIEP Class Chefs

The RIEP initiative strengthens connections between the 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.

The **Class Chefs** student restaurant takeover initiative gives students from local schools the opportunity to take over a restaurant for a day. Students take charge of all aspects of running the restaurant, serving up to 100 paying customers including teaching staff, parents, and members of their local community.



501 
VET STUDENTS

participated in the Class Chefs student restaurant takeover initiative

- 375 VET Hospitality students
- 126 Music, TAS, Entertainment and other VET students

Educational Pathways Program (EPP)

The EPP 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 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.
- Strengthening careers advice and job-ready life skills for young people.
- 11 of the 15 schools (73%) in the South West Sydney EPP are in the SWC footprint.

SWC has contributed to 2 of programs during the pilot, EDGE for Work workshops and Careers Immersion Teams (CIT), working closely with the CIT Head Teachers to build on relationships and connections with industry and create synergies across both the Liverpool and Cowpasture clusters.



Class Chefs - Kitchen Operations students preparing up to 320 dishes in a 2-3 hour period

SWC supporting Fairfield Council's Bring it on! Festival for the past decade.



VET Summit - Interactive Stall with KONE



Partnership with Fairfield City Council

In 2022, SWC continued to strengthen our long standing partnership with Fairfield City Council across work placements and youth initiatives. SWC have increased the number of young participants at Fairfield City Open Libraries to help them improve their employability skills to set themselves up for success in their career and in life.

Every year, SWC supports Fairfield City Council's Bring It On! Festival by hosting an interactive stall. The 2022 Bring It On! Festival was scaled down to be COVID-Safe resulting in smaller crowds in multi venue sites streamed online, compared to a pre-pandemic crowd of up to 10,000 participants. Local work placement students have also been involved prior to, during and after each year's event as part of their VET course.

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.

BRETT CARTER
EVENTS

Apprenticeship & Traineeship Expo

In 2022, SWC hosted the first VET Students Careers Summit alongside the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Expo at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

The VET Summit involved:

- A one-day event, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
- Students meeting and interacting with employers throughout the day
- Interactive Career Workshops
- VET Industry Q&A Panels
- Speed Networking with industry experts

The 2022 Apprenticeship & Traineeship Expo gave the opportunity for young people to meet with potential employers, training providers and organisations that provide support services for young job seekers.

Work Ready & VET Expectations

SWC funds the services of a professional presenter from Corptraining to assist schools in delivering their Work Ready programs for 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. Over the past decade, close to 21,000 students have benefited from this initiative, which also includes workshops for students from Years 10 through 12. Students developed their employability skills, confidence & ambition through Work Ready sessions, mock interviews & career skills workshops.



Partnership with Flight Deck Airport & Aviation Careers

SWC partnered with Flight Deck to offer exciting opportunities for female students interested in pursuing a career in the aviation industry. The partnership involved running SWC's Ambition PLUS+ workshop alongside Flight Deck's Airport & Aviation Careers workshop at the Fairfield Youth and Community Centre and also at Cabramatta Library. SWC enabled the attendance of 90% of the participants by providing buses, catering and resources provided in a showbag.

This SWC and Flight Deck collaboration aims to:

- Help women discover training and entry pathways to secure the aviation career of their choice by creating awareness of airport and aviation career options
- Providing access to female industry role models eager to share career and industry insights
- Preparing young people to become work ready by guiding their pathway between school, tertiary education and employment
- Building resilience and life skills in lifting their aspirations and empowering them with the confidence to succeed during and after school

The participants enjoyed the workshop and gained valuable knowledge and skills from the SWC and Flight Deck team. They also had the opportunity to network with other women in the aviation industry and learn from their experiences and advice.

Students getting 'Work Ready' & learning about workplace expectations



Participants at the Aviation Careers Workshop at Cabramatta Library



REGIONAL INDUSTRY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS (RIEP) & SWC CLASS CHEFS

South West Connect has partnered with the Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) team to deliver another 12 Class Chefs events in 2022 and 2023, in addition to the original 10 events, totalling 22 Class Chefs for the entire partnership.

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.

The "Class Chefs" initiative provides an exciting hands-on learning opportunity for an entire class of students to take the lead and run a commercial kitchen of a fine dining restaurant, serving members of the general public quality food and beverage including a 3-course fine dining menu or a 6-course tasting plate experience. Students will encounter the same challenges and pressures faced by busy fine dining establishments.

This is a unique opportunity for students to gain real life experience, by serving paying customers outside of the school or training facility environment. They will also be co-assessed under the guidance of industry experts and their teacher.

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.



Bellbird Dining and Bar Head Chef Federico Rekowski sharing "MasterChef" techniques with Class Chefs Students

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28



Students working under pressure serving up to 120 customers in a 2 hour period at Class Chefs at Cucina 105

WATCH THE RIEP CLASS CHEFS NSW DOE VIDEO

"Class Chefs was great experience from beginning to end, especially the practical learning that takes place, seeing the classroom learning come to life."
- Ms. Sleiman, Teacher

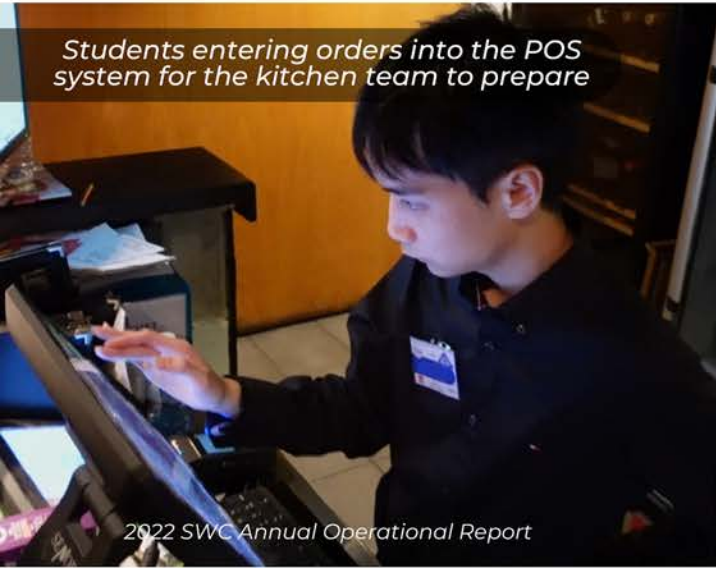


<https://bit.ly/3LEihjs>

CLASS CHEFS 2019- 2023 | 19* EVENTS & SCHOOLS



*Figures are indicative of the average number of students, customers and schools to date



Students entering orders into the POS system for the kitchen team to prepare



Preparing a 5 course fine dining experience: students demonstrating team work and communication skills

Nick Minto, NSW Department of Education RIEP (middle), and John Edmondson High School Principal Brij Khanna (right), presenting certificates to Class Chefs student



TRUSTED BY LOCAL SCHOOLS

South West Connect has worked with 28 schools over the past decade to train and develop their teachers and students to host a Class Chefs event.





Students and aged care residents interacting and enjoying arts and crafts at a Project CARE session



PROJECT CARE

(AN EXTENSION OF FUSION : FUN
UNITE, SMILE, IGNITE, OLDER, NEW)

Project CARE 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. Project CARE encourages, supports and increases participation 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 / Project CARE session in 2014, over 410 students have taken part in the program from the following high schools: Westfields Sports High School, Canley Vale, Prairiewood, Liverpool Boys, Miller Technology and Bossley Park. More than 200 aged care residents have benefited from the regular interaction with young people in the Project CARE program.

Funding for the majority of Project CARE programs has been made possible through the contribution of our local clubs and 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
DEVELOPED
LIFE SKILLS

Students developed life skills that will benefit them in the future.



94%
IMPROVED
MOOD

Volunteers improved their mood.



Since 2014
Project CARE has

6,338 HOURS
VOLUNTEERED



410 STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED



201 SESSIONS
VISITED





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, thus, improving community connectedness & social inclusion.



Bridging the generational gap by sharing values and respect for our diversity, culture & heritage.

It provides employment pathways, skills & knowledge about the aged care & health care industry for students. Increasing awareness & issues related to health & the ageing population.



CONNECTING CULTURES, GENERATIONS & EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS THROUGH VOLUNTEERING IN AGED CARE

Project CARE improves the self-esteem, and physical and mental health of aged residents through regular interaction, especially for residents who may not have relatives living nearby that can visit regularly.

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



SWC YouTube Channel

Project CARE



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.



SOUTH WEST CONNECT VET SUMMIT

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

VET SUMMIT
STUDENTS CAREERS
EXPLORE LEARN APPLY ACHIEVE



VET students (Yr 10-12) acquired skills and knowledge to help them get the most out of their work placements through being **mentored and interacting with industry experts** throughout the day.

This includes interactive Career Workshops, VET Industry Q&A Panel and Speed Networking. There was an extremely high level of interest in our region with SWC receiving over

900 registrations from students, teachers, and industry representatives. The VET Summit was developed on the foundation of 10 years of feedback and requests received from VET teachers, Host Employers and Industry Stakeholders. The aim is to provide practical insights and advice to VET students to help them contribute meaningfully during their one-week work placement.

IMPACT IN 2022

✓ Inspired and motivated VET students to value their work placement experience

✓ Students acquired knowledge & skills from Industry Experts to assist with their success during their work placements

98.2%



of students would recommend the VET Summit to other students

96.4%



of students increased their confidence to participate in work placements

99.4%



of students increased their knowledge of Employer expectations

100%



of the teachers said the student engagement was excellent



VET Summit - Q&A Panel Session



VET Summit Keynote Speaker Rami Ykmour



SWC with Rami Ykmour



Speed Careers Mentoring with Industry Experts



RASHAYS INSPIRING STUDENTS AT THE VET SUMMIT | RAMI YKMOUR

The founder of the RASHAYS® restaurant franchise, Rami Ykmour kickstarted the 2022 VET Students Careers Summit as the Keynote Speaker by sharing his inspirational career journey and what skills and attributes he looks for in an employee.

Students were inspired and engaged to hear from a local business owner who started out in the same situation and grew his company to now employ 700 employees across nearly 50 locations.

"This was a fantastic event for our students. They enjoyed the day and were engaged in activities and presentations/talks. Thank you for the day. It is the first of this kind that I have attended and I hope there will be many more"

- Sue, VET Teacher

"Engagement with students and networking was great. Having the students in groups gave them the opportunity to be more open and bounce questions"

- Rick, Industry Expert

"The VET Summit helped me visualise and get understanding and ideas of what is expected and what is needed in work and how I can use my skills to better develop my work placement opportunities."

- Henry, VET Student

THANK YOU TO OUR VET SUMMIT SUPPORTERS





AMBITION+ PLUS

Ambition PLUS+ sessions aimed at addressing gender and diversity in VET and non-traditional industries

Ambition+ PLUS is a careers exploration program that prepares young people to become work ready by guiding their pathway between school, tertiary education and employment. It comprises of multiple layers of activities with young leaders and their peers to train them to build resilience and life skills in lifting their aspirations and empowering them with the confidence to succeed during and after school.

One particular Ambition+ PLUS Masterclass was focused on female roles in the aviation industry given the number of roles that will be available at the new Western Sydney Airport from the construction phase right through to planes landing. This session provided valuable tools and resources for participants to navigate their own career exploration journey at their own pace. Includes virtual work experience and insights provided by industry experts.

Other Ambition+PLUS sessions in 2022 included:

- Sessions as a part of school Career Expos to help Year 12 students navigate their options as they step into the next stage "Year 13", whether it takes them to tertiary education, work, travel or other options.
- MasterClasses on career exploration with an emphasis on pathways across apprenticeships and traineeships to Year 10 students.
- MasterClass on First aid to Year 12 students, enhancing their employability credentials and employability skills

**AMBITION
PLUS**



FairfieldCity
Celebrating diversity

Watch what the Fairfield City Council Mayor Frank Carbone has to say about the Ambition+ PLUS Program!



WATCH VIDEO
Ambition+ PLUS

Students engaged in
Ambition+ PLUS
Career Workshops &
Expos since 2019

605
STUDENTS



268
STUDENTS

Students attended Ambition+ PLUS Master Class & Seminars in 2022



100%
INCREASED
KNOWLEDGE

Students learnt something that will help them succeed in the future in 2022



Students participating in an interactive careers Kahoot!

Ambition+ PLUS MasterClass on First Aid

DARE TO DREAM BIG

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

**DARE TO
DREAM
BIG**

The SWC Dare to Dream Big program is a social & emotional learning (SEL) early intervention program that 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 acquire skills for success to successfully transition through different life stages and to handle related social and emotional challenges.

SINCE 2012

**8,890+
STUDENTS**



students acquired SEL and Skills for Success in the Dare to Dream Big program

IN 2022

**345+
STUDENTS**



Students completing activities in their booklets about educational & career pathways



Students during an interactive Dare to Dream Big session

TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

In 2022, over 170 students took part in the Dare to Dream Big's extension Transition to High School Program to learn about educational and career pathways, managing workload, coping with stress, support networks, employability skills, and skill for success in the future.

The need to prepare and give confidence to primary school students to transition to high school derived from many meetings with teachers and executive teams from various schools which identified a heightened level of anxiety from students about to transition to high school.



Students on an immersive Dare to Dream Big Tour, learning about the Tourism, Events & Hospitality industry

170+



students graduated from the Transition to High School program



SWC with Dai Le (Federal MP) and Frank Carbone (Mayor of Fairfield)

MINI SEEK A SKILL

In 2022, over 500 Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) students had the opportunity to participate in the Mini Seek A Skill interactive careers expo where they had an opportunity to interact with adult volunteers representing a job/trade/career/industry.

These stall holders helped students to “explore skills to help you succeed in any job” and discover options and pathways to meaningful employment. Students created engaging mini projects during the activity, enhancing knowledge of career pathways and acts as a tool enabling the continuation of the conversation with parents at home.

Channel 9's TV News reporter, Mike Dalton interviewed students about Mini Seek A Skill and it appeared on both the 4pm and 6pm National News.



"It's a good experience and opportunity. I learnt a lot about jobs and what to do in the future."
-Winston, student

FEATURED ON 9NEWS



WATCH THE MINI SEEK A SKILL STORY



Students at the STEAM stall at Whitlam Library, Cabramatta

IN 2022

500+
STUDENTS

students engaged in Mini Seek A Skill and explored future skills & career pathways

93%
INCREASED
CONFIDENCE



students felt more confident about succeeding in the future

96%
INCREASED
KNOWLEDGE



students knew more about different jobs and career options

Student reading their letter from their Career Mentor

MINI CAREER MENTORS



The program involved Year 5/6 students from different schools exchanging letters throughout the school year with adult volunteers from different vocations and professions to improve literacy and inspire their learning through the art of letter writing.

At the conclusion of the year, students have an opportunity to meet their career mentor during a group excursion to the CBD where they have lunch at a memorable Sydney City location near the Sydney Opera House and Royal Botanical Garden.

“Thank you so much for connecting us with our career mentors. Without your help students like me wouldn't get this experience and learn new things like career pathways.”
- Khoder, student

IN 2022

610+
STUDENTS



students received letters from their Career Mentors about their careers, goals and educational pathways that led them to where they are

91%
INCREASED
CONFIDENCE

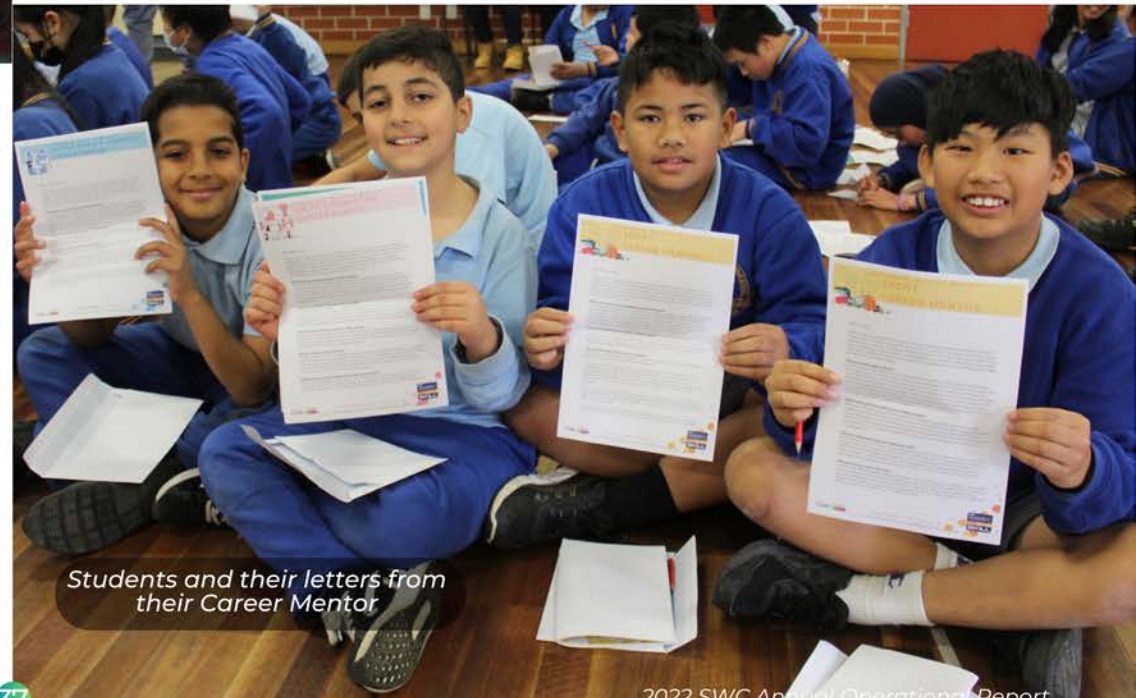


students felt more confident about their future career/goals after receiving the letter from their Career Mentor

94%
INCREASED
MOTIVATION



students were motivated to succeed in the future after receiving the letter from their Career Mentor



Students and their letters from their Career Mentor

BECOME A WORK PLACEMENT HOST EMPLOYER

WHAT IS WORK PLACEMENT?

Work placement is a mandatory component of industry-based Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses that students can choose as part of their studies for the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC).

It is not the same as the Year 9 or 10 'Work Experience Program'.

HOW CAN A STUDENT PLACEMENT BENEFIT YOU?



PRODUCTIVITY

Improve efficiencies by allocating basic tasks to students



TRAINING

Provide existing employees with management and training development opportunities



COMMUNITY

Contribute to the community by supporting an HSC student

Tasks* Business Services students can complete are largely administrative, examples include:

- Preparing classroom, office & library resources
- Updating phone lists
- Creating Check lists
- Stationery Stocktake
- Printing & collating workbooks
- Creating posters, flyers, etc.
- Designing user guides for equipment
- Replacing toners in printers
- Copying – scanning
- Filing & Archiving
- Assisting teachers
- Data entry
- Support research & marketing



Business Services work placement students at Liverpool Council

*Contact SWC to get a list of tasks for other courses (eg. Retail, Construction, Hospitality, Automotive etc)

WHEN YOU HOST A STUDENT FOR WORK PLACEMENT:



1 week (35 hours) placement



Students are supervised by a responsible staff member



Students are expected to dress & behave as an employee would



Students are instructed to participate in real work & shown how to perform basic tasks



Full insurance from the education system is provided



Full support from SWC to find and follow up with students & their schools



Construction work placement student at Steady Eddie Landscaping

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

Through their work placement, students attain their HSC and a National Industry Qualification. Other student benefits include:



Develop knowledge, skills and attitudes through real workplace experience



Gain maturity and confidence through involvement in an adult work setting



Learn work ethics, team work and the meaning of responsibility



Make informed decisions in assessing future career choices

SWC coordinates placements for students in Region E LGAs*



*Region E covers all of Fairfield and Liverpool Council LGAs and parts of Cumberland and Canterbury Bankstown Council LGAs.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Work Placement

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 work placement.

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 & Sponsorship

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.



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



ALL DONATIONS OF \$2 OR MORE ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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.

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 \$

Send to SWC via mail or internet banking, details below:

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

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)*

DONATION DETAILS

Name _____
Telephone _____ Mobile _____
E-mail _____
Address _____
Suburb _____ Post Code _____

For further information on how you could financially assist our services please contact us:

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

info@swconnect.org.au



Visit our website

2022 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT



SWC connected over 10,500 young people this year to opportunities in local businesses and their community.

SWC acknowledges the incredible efforts of Host Employers, Teachers and stakeholders in supporting and making this result achievable.

SWC would like to thank and commend our Stakeholders, FBEP Board Members, Staff, Host Employers and Community Partners for the economic and social contribution they continuously deliver to Region E.



Follow us!



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