

Youth Mentor Feature

Introducing Lachie

Bio

Hi, I'm Lachie. I'm a 24 year old living in Ashburton. I recently started working with Defence Force Recruiting, where I help prospective recruits navigate their way through the application and recruitment process for the Australian Defence Force. I am part of a family of five and we are all pretty close. I am lucky to be with a fantastic partner, Georgia. We've been together just over 4 years. I also spend a lot of time with my mates. I think good friendships are very important and I always put time into my friends.

I follow footy and cricket very closely and chew anyone's ear off about it (especially the Hawks and test cricket). I also enjoy learning Spanish, cooking, camping and hanging out with my mates. I'm trying to read more and have made that a goal of mine.

My favourite colour is green. I had a think about why it's my favourite colour, and I'm gonna put it down to the fact that most of the world's beautiful things (forests, fields, cricket ovals) are green.

Tell us a little bit about what attracted you to wanting to become a youth mentor?

I wanted to become a mentor as I think I can make a positive impact on their life. I wish that I was involved in a program like this when I was an adolescent.

Tell us one short term goal and one long term goal with the mentor program.

My short term goal would be to establish a mentoring relationship with a young person and start identifying some of their goals and aspirations.

My long term goal is to maintain a strong mentoring relationship with a young person. I'd eventually like to be able to mentor a few young people and assist as many of them as possible.

Can you tell us how this is different to other services offered to young people?

A Path to Follow is great, because it utilises a very important tool that a lot of mentoring programs haven't quite thought of yet – lived experience. Adolescents and young people can face challenging and complex issues. A lot of people haven't gone through that before – so when a mentor provides advice, it can seem to the young person that they are being talked at.

A Path to Follow focuses on creating meaningful mentoring relationships, where open and honest conversations can be had. Your mentor will work WITH you here. There will be a lot of laughs, but also a few bumps along the way (like anything).

That's why A Path to Follow is different - and worth doing.

How do you think a young person would benefit from the support of you (or a mentor of our program)?

Us mentors are genuinely interested in young people and their needs. We will respect you. We won't judge you. We will listen. We will actively look for solutions to your problems. I think you can learn a lot about yourself, which will put you in a great position to help with any future difficulties you may experience as an adult.

