



Friday, 07 September 2018

## Media Release

Minister Ray Williams, Minister for Multiculturalism and the Minister for Disability Service was a guest at Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College - Berkeley Vale Campus today. The Minister was accompanied by Taylor Martin MLC, and Cr Jilly Pilon from the Central Coast Council.

The Minister presented a cheque for \$5,000 in support of mentoring of students in seven State High Schools on the Central Coast.

The mentoring of Year 10 State High School students has been offered since 2000. The Mentors are volunteers who are mostly retired. Mentors work with a student for one hour each week for twelve weeks. There are two mentoring programs each year and there are currently 75 volunteer mentors.

The mentoring program provides the opportunity for the mentee to work with an older person who is not a Parent or Teacher. The program utilises the life skills of the mentor to introduce the mentee to opportunities that their background may not have allowed them to experience.

Mentees are students who are likely to leave school, who are disinterested in further education, or they may not have a clear idea of future employment opportunities and may leave after Year 10 and not proceed to Year 12.

Carlie Wells, Coordinating Principal for the Mentoring Program said, "We are looking for additional Mentors as new schools join the program". The next training program will be in February 2019. Applications can be made through our website at [www.ccssm.org.au/become-a-mentor](http://www.ccssm.org.au/become-a-mentor) or by phone on 4388 1899.

The Mentoring program would not be possible without the financial support of the Central Coast Mentoring Network. The Central Coast Mentoring Network is a Not-for-Profit Charity that raises funds through Federal and State Government grants, the Central Coast Council Community grants program, business organisations and private individuals. Donations to the Central Coast Mentoring Network can be claimed as a tax deduction.

Richard Kennedy, President of the Central Coast Mentoring Network said, "We are always looking for additional funding to allow the mentoring to continue in the seven-State High Schools on the Central Coast and to allow for additional Central Coast schools to join the mentoring program. Donations can be made through our website [www.centralcosmentoringnetwork.org.au](http://www.centralcosmentoringnetwork.org.au)". Or by phoning Richard on 0417 449 606.