



## ***"The youth of today are the future of tomorrow"***

***Here is your chance to make a lasting difference....***

Older Australians have a lot of expertise, and wisdom, to share with younger generations. A new pilot program, Mentors for our Students, provides an ideal opportunity for people with skills in maths, science and engineering, to mentor young people in secondary schools.

The Federal Government Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations is funding 25 Local Community Partnerships to pilot a new program, '***Mentors for our Students***'. The South West Local Learning & Employment Network (SWLLEN) Local Community Partnership has been selected to pilot the mentoring program within the Warrnambool area.

The program matches students in years 9 -12 with recently retired tradespeople, as well as professionals and paraprofessionals who have skills, qualifications and experience in the areas of maths, science, and engineering. The pilot aims to improve school retention rates and the transition of young people from school, by sparking their interest in those occupations experiencing skills shortages in their local communities. The areas of identified skill shortage include:

**Trades:** Metal machinist, Toolmaker, Pressure welder/welder, Sheet metal worker, Motor mechanic, Auto electrician, Panel beater, Vehicle painter, Air conditioning mechanic

**Professional & paraprofessional careers:** Computing professional, Registered nurse, Registered midwife, Registered mental health nurse, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Medical diagnostic radiographer, Sonographer

The aim of the program is to inspire young people, broaden their horizons, encourage them to stay on at school, and help them make informed career choices. Business owners who are operating in these areas of skill shortage and are experiencing difficulty in recruiting potential staff are strongly encouraged to consider participating in the Mentors for our Students program. It's an opportunity for older Australians to invest their past in the future of young people in their community. Mentors will be trained and supported by the Local Community Partnerships.

For more information about the Mentors for our Students Program or to register your interest in becoming a mentor please contact:

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