



How can I become a Leaving Care Mentor?

Becoming a Leaving Care Mentor is a great way to contribute to the community and directly help a young person.

If you have an interest in becoming a Leaving Care Mentor, please contact our Mentoring Project Officer on 03 9791 6596 or 0408 566 122. Alternatively, you can email your enquiry to mentoring@jss.org.au.

Our selection process

The mentor application and selection process involves:

- completing an application form
- attending an interview
- taking a Working with Children's Check and Police Check (facilitated by staff, with the cost of all checks reimbursed).

Mentor training

Mentors are required to participate in a total of 12 hours of mentor training.

The training sessions cover effective methods of engagement, communication and boundary setting with at-risk young people.

"The mentor relationship is about sharing personal experience and knowledge to help and inspire others to achieve their goals."

Joey Herrech, Mentoring Project Officer

Contact Us

Mentoring Project Officer

155 Lonsdale St

Dandenong VIC 3130

Tel: 03 9791 6596

mentoring@jss.org.au

www.jss.org.au

Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation working to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential.

This program is funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services Southern Area (Leaving Care Services).



Leaving Care Mentoring Program



**Justice and
crime prevention**



What is the Leaving Care Mentoring Program?

The Leaving Care Mentoring Program matches volunteers from the community with young people involved in the Child Protection system, with the aim of creating lasting friendships and positive, stable role models for young people leaving care.

Who is the program for?

The Leaving Care Mentoring Program supports young people aged 15-20 years, who are transitioning from residential or home-based care under a custody or guardianship order.

Where is the program delivered?

Jesuit Social Services delivers the Leaving Care Mentoring Program in Melbourne's southern metropolitan region.



Why do we need Leaving Care Mentors?

Many young people are faced with numerous challenges during the transition out of care.

This can limit their ability to establish pro-social networks, meaningful community involvement and fundamental financial independence.

Without support, young people leaving care may not be able to engage with support services and sustain effective relationships.

Leaving Care Mentors can assist young people to achieve a sense of confidence, belonging and stability, as well as create greater awareness in the community about the experiences of young people transitioning from care.

What is the role of a Leaving Care Mentor?

Leaving Care Mentors provide vital support to young people as they transition from the Child Protection system to independent living.

The role of the mentor can vary depending on a young person's individual needs. For example, a mentor may help link a young person to community or recreational activities, assist them with education or training opportunities, or support them with life skills and general life guidance.

Leaving Care Mentors must be prepared to make a 12-month commitment to the program, and to participate in mentor training.

How do we support Leaving Care Mentors?

We appreciate the time volunteered by Leaving Care Mentors.

We offer Leaving Care Mentors ongoing support and supervision, as well as regular mentor training opportunities.

Leaving Care Mentors are covered for liability by becoming registered volunteers with us.