



YOUTH MENTORING NETWORK

Mentoring Matters

YMN Registered Programs National Survey Findings 2007

www.youthmentoring.org.au





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The following paper provides a brief overview and comment about the situation of registered programs in the Youth Mentoring Network as at July-August 2007. Of the 107 registered programs, 62 programs responded to the on-line survey (58% response rate).

KEY FINDINGS

- Most programs believe that mentees are motivated to participate in mentoring by having someone who supports them and provides friendship (56%). This is followed by careers guidance (17%) and to develop skills and work experience (15%).
- More than a third of mentoring programs' funding ceases on the 31st December this year (35%). Only 2% of programs have access to an ongoing funding arrangement.
- An overwhelming majority of program practitioners believe that there are NOT enough resources and services accessible in their community for children and young people (74%).
- Funding is the largest factor identified to assist in developing mentoring programs (26%). This was followed closely by professional development and training (21%), networking (13%) and promotion of mentoring including sponsorship (11%).

MENTEES

Over three quarters of programs that responded to the survey involve mentees aged 13 to 15 years old. This is followed by mentees aged 16 to 18 years old (62%), 19 to 24 years old (24%) and 0 to 12 years old (22%).

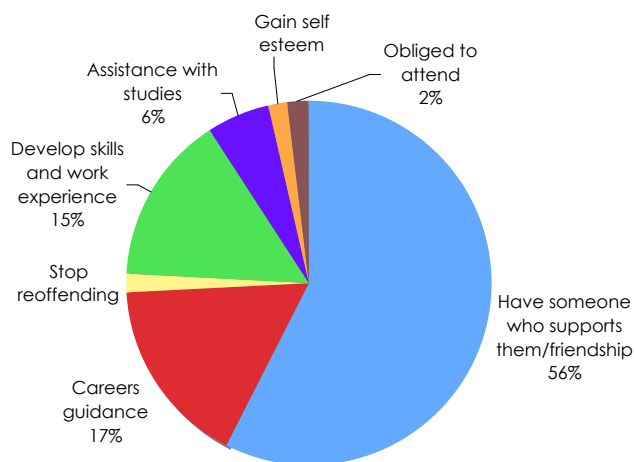
Most programs contain an even proportion of males and females or a ratio approximating 30/70.

A majority of programs target youth broadly (65%) followed by School students specifically (30%). A small number of programs target Tertiary students, unemployed, early school leavers, people who have had a complex background, and people under 12 years of age.

The most common methods mentees are referred are by a service (other community group/Centrelink) and by a teacher/coach.

What reasons do mentees state as their motivating factor in participating in mentoring?

Having someone who supports them/friendship is the most popular motivating factor in participating in mentoring (56%). This is followed by careers guidance (17%) and to develop skills and work experience (15%).

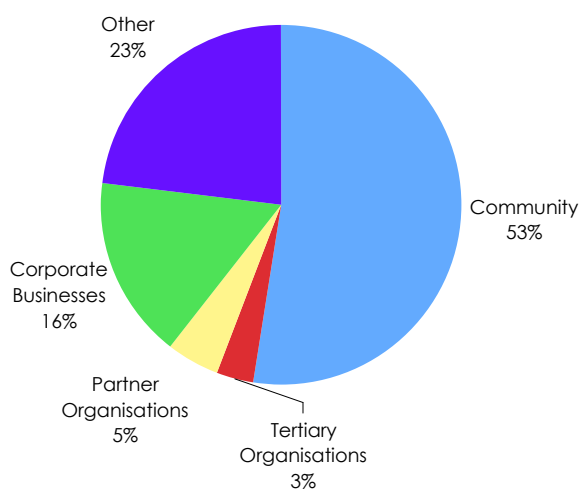


Mentoring plays a key role in improving the social, emotional and learning outcomes for a young person.

MENTORS

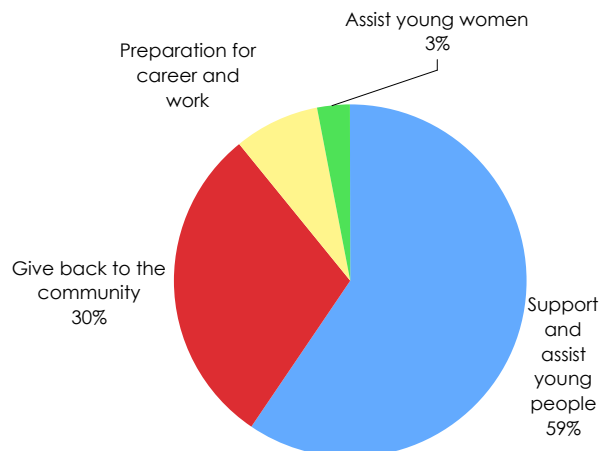
Half of programs that responded to the survey recruit mentors of all ages (over 18 years of age). The most popular age range programs recruit is 26 to 35 years old. This is followed closely by those aged 36 to 45 years old.

Where do you source the majority of program mentors?



A majority of programs source their mentors from the community (53%) followed by other (combination of sources including the community – 23%) and corporate businesses (16%).

What is the main reason mentors state as their motivation for wanting to mentor?



To support and assist young people is the most popular motivation for wanting to mentor (59%), followed by giving something back to the community (30%).

Mentoring requires a strong community involvement. Community is enhanced through mentoring by strengthening connections within the community and fostering capacity building.

TRAINING

All but one program that responded to the survey provide some level of mentor training prior to mentors commencing their role.

- The most popular length of training is 6 to 8 hours in duration (35% of programs).
- This is followed by 2 to 3 days (27%).
- 20% of programs provide mentor training for more than three days.
- 5% of programs provide mentor training for 1 to 2 hours.

Five programs believe that inadequate/no training is the result of mentor locations and time constraints and not being sure of how to train mentors and what content to present.

Four out of five programs have on-going training available to their mentors. This is most commonly offered every 1 to 2 months (23% of programs) or quarterly (19%).

A majority of programs deliver training in house by a qualified trainer (62%). This is followed by in house by an unqualified trainer (40%), externally through a registered training organisation (17%), and externally through TAFE (11%).

If training is delivered in house, an overwhelming majority of programs' training materials are developed by the program coordinator (73%). This is followed by being developed by an experienced trainer (22%).

THE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP

An overwhelming majority of programs provide one-on-one mentoring (80%). This is followed by group mentoring (16%) and e-mentoring (7%). Peer and team mentoring are less common types of mentoring offered.

- Three out of five programs focus on life transitions.
- Half focus on education.
- Two out of five programs focus on transitions to work.
- Three out of ten focus on careers.

The most common length of programs' mentoring sessions is 1 to 2 hours (38% of programs). This is followed by 1 hour (28%) and 2 to 3 hours (18%).

A majority of programs' mentoring sessions are scheduled weekly (63%). This is followed by fortnightly (17%) and monthly (7%). 12% of programs indicated varying times. Most programs in this category nominated a combination of weekly and fortnightly scheduled sessions.

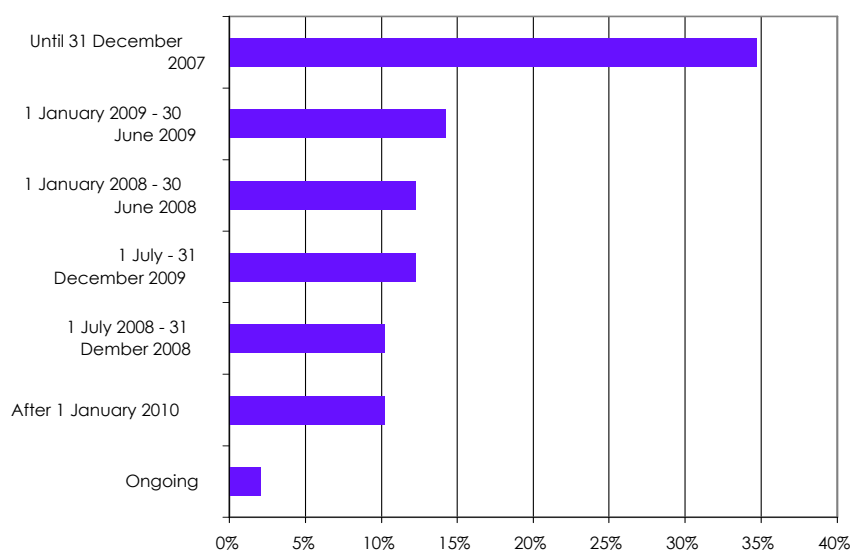
The mentoring relationship extends for between six and twelve months in the majority of cases (39% of programs), followed by 12 to 18 months (25%) and 3 to 6 months (21%). 11% of mentoring relationships last for less than three months.

FUNDING

The most frequent mentoring program annual budget range is \$50,000 to \$69,999 (20%). This is followed by more than \$300,000 (17%). A further 17% of programs have annual budgets of less than \$29,999.

Chief sources of funding are derived from the Federal Government, State Government and Corporate organisations for a majority of programs. Partner organisations and local Council also provide a significant proportion of funding for a number of programs.

When does your funding cease?



More than a third of mentoring programs' funding ceases on the 31st December this year (35%). Only 2% of programs have access to an ongoing funding arrangement.

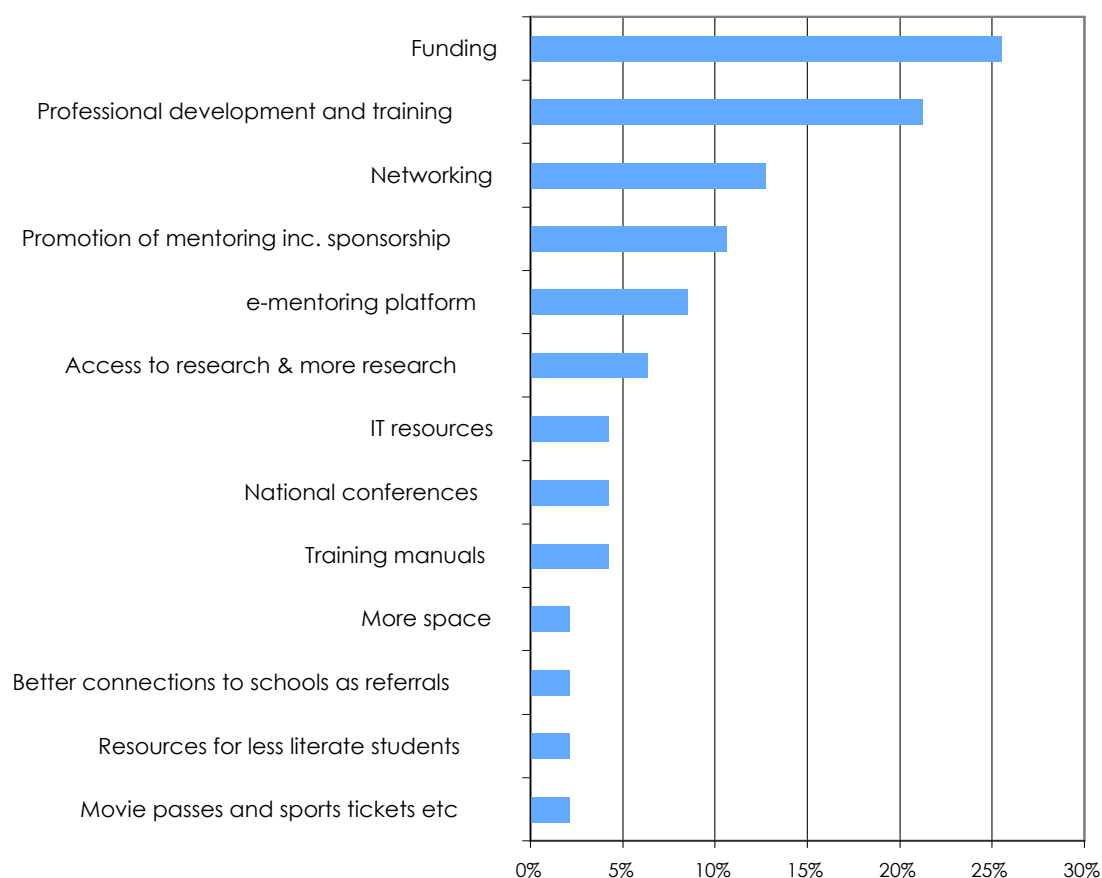
An integrated approach to the ongoing development of youth mentoring is required to ensure the sustainability of mentoring programs.

RESOURCES

An overwhelming majority of program practitioners believe that there are NOT enough resources and services accessible in their community for children and young people (74%).

What services, resources or opportunities do you think would assist in developing your mentoring program?

Funding is the largest factor identified to assist in developing mentoring programs (26%). This was followed closely by professional development and training (21%), networking (13%) and promotion of mentoring including sponsorship (11%).



The lack of resources and services available to children and young people needs to be addressed. Mentoring is an important way of supporting young people.
