



2020 BEACON
Foundation
Workreadiness
PROGRAMS



Employment is more than just a job.

For a young person, gaining employment can impact almost every aspect of their lives.

Employment provides a means for achieving financial stability and independence. For some young people, this can mean access to stable accommodation and adequate standards of living. It can help a young person to escape family violence, reduce substance abuse, or stay out of the justice system. The positive impact of employment on a young person's self-esteem, mental health, and social inclusion is widely recognised.

The transition period between leaving school and finding employment is increasingly precarious for Australia's young people. Over 255 000 young people aged between 15 - 24 years are currently unemployed¹, accounting for more than a third of total unemployment across the country.

By supporting young Australians to become 'work-ready' while they're still at school, we can help them step onto the path of a bright and positive future.

Beacon's Work Readiness Programs help young people feel more confident and ready to transition from education to work.

In the space of a school-day, students practice employability skills and make real-life connections to the world of work. A professional Beacon Facilitator delivers every program face to face, so students immediately feel connected to the world of work. The participation of community and business mentors make these programs even more impactful.

As expressed by one young person, our programs help to 'remove the cloud of mystery' that hangs over the heads of so many of our young people preparing for life after school.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2019, Labour force, Australia, 'Table 13. Labour force status for 15 - 24 year olds by sex - trend', time series spreadsheet, cat. no. 6202.0, viewed 8 January 2020, <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6202.0Nov%202019?OpenDocument>.

Work Readiness Programs

Prepare Years 7 & 8 - 1/2 Day Workshop

Prepare sparks interest and curiosity for young people beginning their journey into high school education. Young people explore how personal values and teamwork can help them prepare for casual employment and career success. Above all, this foundational program encourages young people to aspire and be open and curious about future possibilities.

Polish Years 9 & 10 - 1 Day Program

Polish is a powerful, practical program focussed on confidence building. To build self-advocacy, young people learn how to identify and promote their skills to employers. Volunteer business mentors help young people understand how varied career paths can be, the value of transferrable skills, and common workplace expectations. Polish ends with a fun and encouraging 'mock' interview session.

Perform Years 11 & 12 - 1 Day Program

Perform supports young people to feel ready to take up employment opportunities. We explore personality styles to grow self-awareness. Volunteer business mentors share career insights and facilitate small-group workshops on topics such as elevator pitching, resumes, interviews, networking, conflict resolution, and goal setting. Perform offers a rare and exciting opportunity for young people to practice communicating with professional people in a non-threatening environment.



The Mentor Experience

Beacon's work readiness programs provide a unique opportunity for members of the business community to participate as volunteer mentors.

In just 2 - 3 hours of volunteering time, business mentors have the opportunity to connect with 20 - 25 young people at the throes of making crucial decisions about their life after school. Activities include panel sessions, networking lunches, small group workshops, and mock interview sessions.

By sharing career stories and employment experiences, mentors provide a vital link to the working world. Mentors help students to practice employability skills and encourage students to feel optimistic about their career journey, attributes that can accelerate a young person's transition from education to employment.

But mentoring isn't a one-way street. It's an incredibly rewarding way to connect with young people while building professional communication, public speaking, and leadership skills.

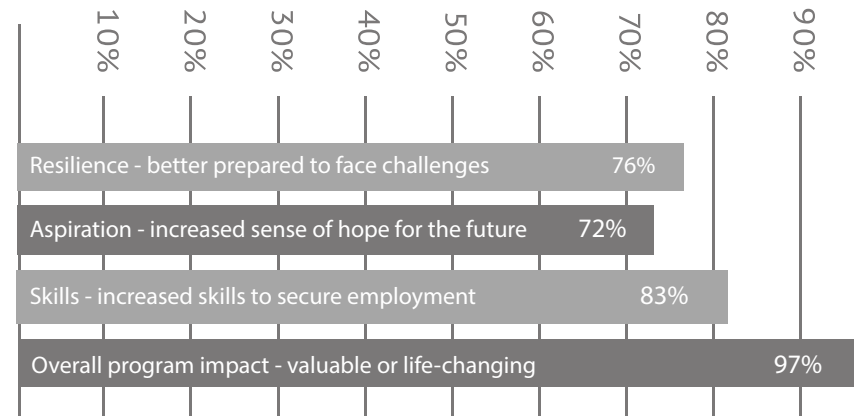
We invite you and your organisation to be a part of the community supporting young Australians to find their path to an incredible future.

"It was inspiring to meet kids with goals and ambitions at such a young age. I loved sharing my personal experiences with the kids in the hope that they derive as much value from the experience as I did"
- Business mentor

"Such a unique opportunity to meet and interact with young people. Their positivity and zest for life is refreshing. I gained a lot from my mentoring session."
- Business mentor

Program Outcomes

Student Outcomes



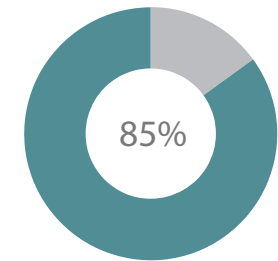
Business and Educator Outcomes

98%

of business mentors involved in the program reported that they felt the day equipped the students with more skills to secure employment

98%

of educators involved in the program reported that they felt the day equipped the students with an increased knowledge of the world of work



of business mentors reported the day to be a personally valuable experience

Contact

To learn more about partnership or volunteering opportunities contact:

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"Students learned so much about themselves, preparing for work, being pushed out of their comfort zones. The industry guests were open about their life's journey and their jobs to get there. Great realistic viewpoint of life"
- Teacher, 2019 Program

"It always helps talking to people in business, how they cope and what they have done. It gives so much reassurance...asking questions to the mentors really helped me to understand that it's not always easy to achieve what you want but it is always possible."
- Student, 2019 Program

