



A HELPING HAND

BHP volunteer mentors young adult

Volunteering has improved my...

- Adaptability
- Sense of well-being/
happiness
- Awareness of wider
social issues
- Understanding &
empathy with
other people
- Pride in my company

The Mentoring 2 Work (M2W) program establishes a mentoring program that matches young people who are in receipt of income support payments and at risk of long-term unemployment, with mature volunteer mentors to assist them to access and sustain employment. It is supported by the Try, Test and Learn Fund – an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Social Services and delivered through a partnership between the Council on the Ageing WA (COTA WA) and United Way WA (UWWA).

The M2W team was looking for volunteers to mentor young people participating in the program and reached out to Volunteering WA to connect them with potential volunteers who were keen to work with young people to strengthen their job-seeking skills, confidence and resources to achieve their career aspirations and create a better future.

A Principal Process Engineer and Metallurgist at BHP had an interest in giving back to the community, particularly when it came to assisting young people, and was quick to put her hand up to be involved in the project.





Hosting a skills-based volunteer has...

- Increased our capacity or capability
- Enabled us to offer new services / products
- Developed expertise not already available

After the initial screening and orientation process the volunteer was matched to a young adult who she worked closely with to improve his CV and interview skills, and also to help him craft his short, mid and long term career plans and what he should do to achieve those. The success of this match was evidenced when the volunteer shared the news that the young adult had recently accepted a mechanic apprentice position.

The volunteer reported that the volunteering experience had improved her adaptability, negotiating skills, and sense of well-being, along with her job satisfaction and pride in her company. Now more likely to both volunteer again and recommend volunteering to her colleagues, the volunteer reported that being giving the opportunity to give back to the community was most fulfilling. She wrapped up by adding:

"It's worth someone's time to be able to impart a positive change to someone else's life."

Likewise, the M2W team reported that the expectations of the match were met and they would readily choose to participate in the skills-based volunteering program again. When asked for feedback on their experience working with the volunteer, the team replied:

"She has been very supportive of her mentee and flexible with his changing availability and circumstances. She has offered him some solid, sage advice & has been very encouraging."

What fabulous result for all involved in this project!