

BHP



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**-Tim Allan,
Mentoring 2 Work
Team**

BHP VOLUNTEER TAKES PART IN YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

The Mentoring 2 Work (M2W) Project 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 were looking for volunteers to mentor young people participating in the M2W Project and reached out to Volunteering WA to connect them with potential volunteers.

Equipped with a background in psychology, law and commerce and keen to do something good for the community, BHP staff member Laura* was an ideal candidate for the program. The match kicked off with an initial meeting between the volunteer and UWWA's Corporate Partner Manager, Tim Allan, to discuss the background to the program, the on boarding process and the careful method employed by the M2W team to ensure that ideal matches are made.

Now fully orientated and keenly awaiting a suitable match, Laura reports that the experience so far has made her more likely to recommend volunteering to a colleague and to take part in skills-based volunteering again.

Likewise, Tim stated that the team's expectations were met and they would readily choose to participate in the skills-based volunteering program again. When asked what it was like to work with the volunteer, Tim remarked:

"Great. Having a professional outlook helped but more importantly the volunteer had expertise and interpersonal skills that suited this particular mentoring opportunity."

Well done to all involved in this significant program!

*Name has been changed.