

Volunteer community mentors ...making a difference

WISE Employment seeks volunteer mentors to work with Straight4Work, a unique program providing employment, education and training opportunities to people being released from prison.



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Mentoring can help ex-offenders to break the cycle of re-offence by strengthening self-esteem and promoting positive social bonds.



Mentors and clients are matched based on their distinct characteristics – beliefs, values and interests.



Mentors have a passion for social justice, are community spirited and will ideally be over 30 years of age.

WISE Employment provides training and support to mentors.

...getting
straight4work

To discuss the role further please call WISE Employment Straight4Work program on

02 4721 8100



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WISE Employment is a not-for-profit organisation with over 23 years providing employment and training services to job seekers from some of our most marginalised backgrounds. WISE has offices in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

What is Straight4Work?

Straight4Work is the first program of its type in New South Wales. It provides support for adults leading up to and after their release from prison, by preparing them for employment and helping them to access essential support services.

An innovative feature of the Straight4Work program is that it also provides participants with personal support through mentorship. In this way the program not only addresses barriers to vocational and/or educational progress, but also offers individual support at a personal level through a positive and beneficial relationship with a volunteer mentor.

Why have a mentor?

Many of the Straight4Work participants have had few positive role models and restricted social networks. By introducing them to new and positive activities within the community, under the guidance of and with the support of a mentor, we hope to give back to these clients their confidence and help them renew their place in the community.

What does it involve?

The activities and the time spent will depend on the requirements of the mentoree as well as the availability of the mentor. It could involve having a chat over coffee for an hour or spending a whole day at the footy. We expect that there would be a minimum of four hours contact per month. Any time spent together over and above this would be very positive.

Is there a cost involved?

No, Straight4Work finances all reasonable activities undertaken whilst mentoring.

What is expected of the mentor?

The mentor is expected to provide guidance and support to the mentoree simply by spending time with them. The mentor is, in essence, a role model, so behaviour within the community should reflect the expectations that the Straight4Work program holds for its clients.

Are mentors provided with training?

Every prospective mentor is taken through a selection and training program with the aim of having each new mentor comfortable with their understanding of their role and completely prepared to meet with their new mentoree.

How long will the mentorship last?

The duration of the mentorship varies with the average mentorship lasting three to nine months.

What does Straight4Work expect to achieve with Mentorship?

The Straight4Work program is aimed at not only developing and progressing the individual, it is also about raising awareness in the community of the barriers faced by these highly marginalised people. Our early intervention model hopes to stop the cycle of re-offence, lessening the cost of incarceration to the taxpayer. Mentorship is at the heart of this, and we believe the mentor will also gain a positive and fulfilling benefit from their involvement with the Mentorship program.

**To discuss the role further please call
WISE Employment Straight4Work program:
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P: 02 4721 8100, F: 02 4721 7046
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Empowerment through Employment



**straight
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