



# AVONSIDE GIRLS

## TERM ONE REPORT 2014

We have had three new Youth Workers start at Avonside Girls High School this year. Gemma, Kate and Ruby's main focus for term one has been to learn about how the school works, meet students and staff members, and figure out how best us new youth workers can serve Avonside. We were lucky enough to have Hannah Ward still working in the school with us for term one. Hannah was able to help show us around and share with us some of the things that she and Ellie had been doing to support the school in the previous years. We were sad to see Hannah leave us at the end of term one. As the new youth workers in the school we are thankful for the foundation that Hannah and Ellie have laid for us through their hard work in Avonside. We hope that we can carry on from the great work they have begun, while also coming up with new ways to support the staff and students of Avonside Girls.



As Youth workers we have five outcomes that we want to achieve in the school. Below is a summary of how we have tried to achieve these outcomes in term one.

### 1. STUDENT SUPPORT

One way in which we offer student support is through mentoring students referred to us by teachers and deans. Most of the girls we are mentoring have a lot going on for them both in school and outside of school. By building up relationships with these girls we can help support them in school by being a friendly, approachable person with whom they can talk to in confidence to about whatever is going on for them. We are also often referred girls who have some social issues which can make their school experience harder. We build up relationships with these girls and try to teach them some skills which will help them interact with others. These girls generally need a lot of support and encouragement.

The biggest struggle we have had with providing support to these students is not having an appropriate place to meet with them. We often use the Library as a meeting place however we find it hard to have personal conversations with these girls when there are other people around.

## **2. BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

Building positive relationships is important as youth workers. We do this by coming in at lunch times, walking around, talking to students and generally building up rapport with them. We have also been running a year nine and ten drop in centre on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes for students. This has been a really good way of building positive relationships and having fun with those students that come along. Some of the things that we have done during drop in this term have been: sports, competitions, food challenges, photo challenges around the school, limbo, games and quizzes. The girls who have come seem to really enjoy coming along and are often there every week. We have been able to get to build some positive relationships though doing these events.

## **3. ENHANCING SCHOOL SPIRIT**

As youth workers we have been trying to enhance School spirit in term one by supporting school events and coaching school teams. We have tried to be present at every school event that has been held in term one. We have also



helped out at athletics day, year nine events days and the zone sports day. We are keen to help out with any school events that we can. We also work to enhance school spirit by coaching some of the school sports teams. This is a good way for us to build relationships with students and parents. In term one Hannah and Ruby have been coaching one of the touch teams, Ruby has also started to coach one of the basketball teams and Gemma has started coaching the year nine netball team.

## **4. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

With term one being so busy we have yet to focus on how we can help develop leadership within the school. We want to figure out how we as youth workers can support leadership development in term two. One way we have discussed doing this is by attending some of the clubs within the school and by supporting the students who are leading those clubs. Leadership development is a goal of ours for term two.

## 5. COMMUNITY INTERACTION

This is achieved by us youth workers participating within our local communities. Each of us youth workers help facilitate youth programs at our local youth groups each week. Many of the young people who attend our youth groups also go to Avonside Girls High School. This is a great way for us youth workers to get to know students outside of school. Seeing students outside of school helps us to build a deeper connection with them so that we are better able to support and encourage them in all areas of their life. Gemma, Ruby and Kate are passionate about helping connect young people to community programs where they experience belonging and social support.

### Average hours worked by Youth Workers - Term 1

Youth Worker	Average weekly hours this term
Gemma Phillips	9
Kate East	6
Ruby Olds	9

### Team contact with young people this term

	Total this term
Meaningful contact with individuals	48
Meaningful group contact	480
Youth attendance at events run by youth workers	430

### Youth Worker goals for Term 2:

- Leadership development
- Provide more lunchtime events for the whole school.
- Improving networking with school staff and other agencies.
- Making better connections with senior students.

