



YOUTHWORKERS REPORT

2015 TERM TWO



Term Two has gone well for the Avonside Girls Youth Workers. Our focus in school this term has been on mentoring students who need some extra support. This term between the three youth workers we have mentored around twenty Avonside students on a regular basis. Mentoring enables the youth workers to provide students with extra support for some of the struggles that they are facing both in school and outside of school. Some of the common challenges that students talk to us about include; school work, bullying, stress, self esteem, friendship issues, confidence and career choices. We also have a lot of students talk to us about challenges they are facing outside of school such as; breakdowns at home, boyfriend/girlfriend relationships, mental health challenges and peer and parent pressure. We are able to offer students a confidential person to talk to about some of these challenges. Students often appreciate that we are somebody outside of their peer group or family for them to talk with who offers them support, challenges them and encourages them.



Midyear Update from the Youth Workers....



Ruby Olds

"Returning to Avonside at the beginning of 2015 the dynamics of us as a team of youth workers were slightly different due to all of us having schedules that often clashed with one another; because of this, most of the time we each did separate work with a range of students. Being particularly passionate about mentoring, both one on one and with small groups of students, I was referred a number of girls that I meet with, some regularly (weekly) and others more irregularly. I feel that my role as a mentor is to support and listen to these girls in an accepting and open way; being another support system by encouraging and giving realistic and supportive advice. Although we are often doing separate work, there are times that Gemma, Kate and I are able to get together and put on school wide events. In the middle of term 2, we decided to give out free hot milo to the students before school. We set up outside the main field and as students came in we offered them a hot cup of milo. Being able to meet a huge amount of students (we worked out that we gave away around 200 cups of milo!) and offer them a small luxury on a cold morning was definitely a highlight for me so far this year."

Gemma Phillips



"Ruby, Kate and I have all been focussing on mentoring this term. Unfortunately we haven't been able to do as many events this term because of our conflicting timetables. One event we did do this term was a hot chocolate early morning event. This event went well and we were able to meet a whole lot of new students we hadn't previously met. We are hoping to do a few more of these hot chocolate events in term three, as well as a couple of events for year 9 students.

One of my highlights for term two has been helping a y11 student who I have been working with, to make some better choices and take some responsibility for some poor decisions that she has previously made. It was encouraging to journey with this student and in righting her

wrongs which she knew she had to deal with but was afraid and didn't know how to go about it. With encouragement and advice this girl was able to sort out some of the mess she had gotten herself into which was impacting her school life. By dealing with her personal issues this student was able to better focus on school which is important as it is her first year of NCEA. I am happy to see that this student seems to have learnt from her mistakes and will be better equipped to deal with similar situations in the future".



Kate East

"Throughout this year and particularly over term 2 Gemma, Ruby and I have been focusing on supporting students one on one through weekly and fortnightly mentoring sessions. A personal highlight of term 2 would be seeing the change in a year 9 student that I mentor on a weekly basis. When I began mentoring her at the start of the year she was angry, frustrated with her home life and was not participating in extracurricular activities. Six months on she is able to talk through her emotional responses to situations she encounters both in and out of school. Through continued encouragement she is now involved in extracurricular activities which have given her a sense of belonging and has enabled her to be an active part of the Avonside school culture.

Youth Workers Goals for term 3...

- Help out with more school events
- Organise some Year 9 lunchtime events



Supporting Agencies & Church's...

