**Becoming a Mentor**

**Bridge to Employment Program**

**About the program:**

Officially launched in Australia in 2013, the Bridge to Employment program aims to inspire young people from underserved communities to stay in school, excel academically and elevate their career aspirations.

The program supports 46 Marsden High School students for three years as they participate in activities that assist them with their study along with preparing them for further education and or employment post school. Mentoring from Johnson & Johnson employees is a key component of the three-year program.

2realise, a charity supporting young people, is responsible for managing the program in partnership with Johnson & Johnson operating companies along with other program partners, including Macquarie University and Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE.

**What is Mentoring?**

Mentoring provides a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement.

There has been extensive international research conducted on the benefits of mentoring, many of which show evidence that young students will be:

* Less likely to become involved in criminal activity
* Less likely to become involved in drug taking and alcohol abuse
* Less likely to leave school early
* More likely to have improved academic performance
* Have better relationships with their teachers and family compared to their peers who are not mentored

**Aim**

The mentoring component of this program aims to assist the students to positively engage in and maintain their participation in education and prepare them for further education and/or employment.

**Structure**

Mentoring will be delivered in a group setting with approximately three J&J employees to approximately four students. Mentoring sessions are held once per month during the school term (approximately eight times per year).

**Time Commitment**

We understand that job roles often require employees to be absent from the office or country on numerous occasions throughout the year; however, a Career Coach who is unable to commit to the outlined requirements may have adverse effects on their students. Therefore it is important that when you consider registering to be a Career Coach that you properly assess whether you have the capacity to commit to the below requirements:

* Be willing and able to make a minimum 12-month commitment to your students
* Be willing and able to meet with your students during group mentoring sessions, which are scheduled for *one hour during March, May, June, August, October and November 2015*
* Communicate with your student in between face-to-face visits via Yammer (online social media communication tool)
* Attend an initial two-hour training session held in January or February 2015

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to register for the program you must be willing and able to;

* Adhere to all program policies and procedures
* Pass a NSW Working with Children Check
* Refrain from smoking or using alcohol or tobacco products during mentoring activities or in the presence of students

Desirable qualities include:

* Willing and active listener
* Encouraging and supportive
* Patient and flexible
* Tolerant and respectful of individual differences

If you have any questions about the program or wish to register to become a career coach please contact:

[Insert Contact Info]