



BoysTown

October 23, 2008

Mentors ready for action

BoysTown's Mentor-One program recently celebrated the graduation of its latest group of volunteers.

The local mentoring program recognised the achievements of 15 men and women from the Redlands community who will be providing support and guidance for young people through the challenging teenage years.

Program coordinator Paul Stewart said Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE developed and delivered training on the needs of young people at risk, and how to cultivate a meaningful and professional relationship with them.

"We celebrated the mentors' graduation from training and recognised the achievements of mentoring relationships already in place," he said.

"Mentors spend quality, one-on-one time with students for about two hours a week listening to their dreams and aspirations and helping them to recognise their strengths.

"These graduates are now ready to start building relationships with young people at Victoria Point High, Alexandra Hills High, Wellington Point High and Cleveland District High.

Alexandra Hills High Principal Gail Armstrong said the Mentor-One program has been a great success.

"The mentors have been very professional and helpful to the students," she said.

"We have had great feedback from the students, most in the program aren't great attendees of school but on the days they meet with their mentors they are always excited to be here."

Victoria Point High Middle School Coordinator Marks Pears is also a big fan of the program.

"The Mentor-One program is one of our most loved outside agency programs," he said.

"I cannot speak highly enough of the professionalism of this wonderful program, especially when one considers the range of personalities, procedures and predicaments they are confronted with every week in our busy school.

"However, more importantly, some of our students need that *one* positive relationship with a responsible and caring adult who doesn't bring the authority baggage with them that we, as teachers, will always carry....and for us at Victoria Point High, that's Mentor-One".

Mentor-One is a BoysTown project funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and supported by Redland City Council, Education Queensland and many Redlands community organisations.

For more information about Mentor-One please contact Paul Stewart or Kara Ramsey on 3245 7182 or email M1@boystown.com.au.

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