

Volunteers *from all walks of life...*



SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK New South Wales

www.edconnectaustralia.org.au

Western Sydney Liaison Officer: Maria Gonzalez Alzati

Call 1800 668 550

Email westernsydneylo@edconnect.org.au

Follow @EdConnectAustralia

ABOUT US

We connect volunteers who want to make a difference, with young people in school who need extra help and guidance, be it mentoring or learning support.

Our Mission

To prepare and connect generations through volunteering and to support disadvantaged or at-risk students for educational success and improved wellbeing.

Our Vision

Every community helping young people to succeed.



OUR 2026 VISION

260



schools

1000+



volunteers

22,000



*supported
students*

TOP 5 BENEFITS OF THE EDCONNECT PROGRAM

1

Supporting schools to provide every student with a pathway to a successful future

Through a well-established volunteering framework, EdConnect Australia provides additional resources to schools to assist in achieving year-on-year progress for students.

2

Supporting teachers in the classroom

EdConnect volunteers support teachers to manage the complex and diverse teaching needs of students.

3

Supporting students to thrive

Our volunteers support students where the school has identified they need it most - in key learning areas or supporting their social and emotional well-being.

4

A Community Partnership

EdConnect Australia brings the wealth of expertise in the community into schools to support student learning and development.

5

An Evaluated Program

EdConnect evaluates the programs annually through surveying our partner schools and volunteers. In 2023 Curtin University released their report on their 2022 external evaluation of the EdConnect program and EdConnect evaluation tools. "From the perspective of participating schools, results strongly suggest that EdConnect contributes to students educational success and personal wellbeing."

What to expect as an EDCONNECT PARTNER SCHOOL

- You will meet your local EdConnect Liaison Officer located within your region who will build a relationship to understand the needs of your school, teachers, classrooms and students. The Liaison Officer will provide support with the program implementation and volunteer management.
- Our volunteers are interviewed, screened and receive training relating to their Mentor or Learning Support role. Our screening ensures they hold a current working with children card and have provided two sound references. Our training includes covering Child Safe Standards, mandatory reporting and disclosure. Volunteers have access to additional training, resources and end of term events.
- An evaluated program that measures the impact and benefit for schools, students and volunteers.
- Unique school report which captures the volunteer activity provided to your school, curriculum focus and the hours of support. This document can be used to complement the school strategic plan and key performance indicators.

The EdConnect program thrives when:

- The School Coordinator is able to allocate up to an hour a week towards the program.
- Volunteers feel connected to the school community and understand what is required of them.
- Volunteers receive clear communication from the school with regard to curriculum days / school closures / special events.



“ EdConnect saves us time and resources as volunteers come to us already thoroughly screened and trained. Processes are seamless and well-documented, ensuring a smooth integration of volunteers into our school environment.”

Emma Meadows, Principal
Riverwood Public School

OUR MODEL

EdConnect Australia works together with three important groups in the local community - Schools, Students and Volunteers. Our model positively impacts each respective group.

STUDENTS



VOLUNTEERS



SCHOOLS



EdConnect Australia trains volunteers in two different volunteering roles.

1. MENTORING



As a Mentor our volunteers work face-to-face with the same student. They will attend weekly mentoring sessions, onsite at the school.

Mentors may support academics through activities, teach social skills and provide emotional support to those who may need guidance or be a friend and confidant to a student who may not have another supportive role model in their life.

There is no prerequisite for a student to be matched to a mentor, rather the school identifies a student who would benefit from a reliable and trusted adult who can provide support, be it social, emotional or academic.

2. LEARNING SUPPORT



Our Learning Support volunteers help students within the classroom, providing much-needed support to teachers. Learning support volunteers, work under the direction of the classroom teacher / staff member.

They work with small groups or nominated students to reinforce learning strategies, keep students focused and answer questions, providing an extra set of adult eyes ears and hands in the classroom.

Learning Support volunteers may also assist in the school library, canteen, breakfast club or garden program.

WHAT'S NEXT?

If your students would benefit from life-changing mentoring and learning support from our volunteers, please call the team at EdConnect Australia to set up a meeting on 1800 668 550 or email edconnect@edconnect.org.au.

STEPS TO ENTER A PARTNERSHIP

1. Complete and sign a Membership Agreement
2. Pay the annual partnership fee \$520 + GST
3. Your school will nominate a passionate staff member as the School Coordinator.

SCHOOL COORDINATOR PROGRAM OVERVIEW



With thanks to the Alcoa Foundation, this overview was created with the intention to welcome school Principals, staff and others to the EdConnect program. It details who we are, the role of our Area Managers, screening and training of our amazing volunteers, the benefits for schools and volunteers, the role of a School Coordinator, and finally how a school can provide volunteer support.

www.edconnectaustralia.org.au

Call 1800 668 550

Email edconnect@edconnect.org.au

Follow @EdConnectAustralia

