

Position Description



Position title	Y Connect Program - Volunteer Mentor
Reporting to	Program Coordinator
Department	Service Delivery
Classification	Volunteer

About YWCA Australia

YWCA Australia (YWCA) is a women's specialist not-for-profit organisation, and part of the YWCA global movement. For over 140 years, we have challenged the systems, structures and policies that act as barriers to women, especially young women, achieving their full potential.

Today, we operate a high number of evidence-based programs and services across Australia that are inclusive of all young women, women and gender diverse people and offer support with housing, homelessness, safety, wellbeing and lived experience expertise.

About the Y Connect Program

The Y Connect Program works with women and gender diverse people living with a disability to progress their employment goals. The program offers free activities like network building, mentoring and specialised workshops to build participants' knowledge, confidence, and personal strengths. The core aim of Y Connect is to build participants' individual capacity and assist them to establish and grow their professional networks with the ultimate aim of leading to employment and/or career progression. The program is available to NDIS and non-NDIS participants and is available to anyone who identifies as a woman or gender diverse person living with disability aged between 15 and 64 living in the Darling Downs region.

About Y Connect Mentoring Program

The Y Connect Mentoring Program sits within the broader Y Connect Program and supports women and gender diverse people living with disability to develop strengths and work towards their employment and/or career aspirations.

Mentoring is a tried and tested way individuals can receive guidance and support to develop their knowledge and skills and achieve their personal and career goals. At YWCA Australia, we recognise the role played by mentoring in assisting women and gender diverse people to engage with their community, to explore how to progress careers, address challenges they may face and generally expand their capacity through development of their ideas and increasing their knowledge and understanding.

Part mentor and part ambassador, mentors contribute to the Y Connect program by connecting mentees to other professional development and social opportunities within the community and the Y Connect Program. The aim is to help mentees explore their personal strengths for self-promotion and success and support them to increase their connections to achieve their employment goals.

The Y Connect Program Coordinator will match prospective mentors with a mentee based on information obtained from mentees and mentors on what they are seeking from the Y Connect mentoring experience.

The role

Volunteer Y Connect Mentors must identify as a woman or gender diverse person and have personal or professional experience that will support a mentee. YWCA Australia will provide training to support you to expand your understanding of mentoring and understanding of living with disability. Besides meeting

with your mentee on a regular basis and for a period of 6 months, we anticipate that you may find opportunities to introduce your mentee to people you know, workplaces you have access to and networking situations to help your mentee expand their connections and exposure to work opportunities aligned with their personal and career goals.

Mentors are required to commit a minimum of 2 hours per month for a period of 6 months and to meet with their mentee at an agreed time and location of mutual convenience. The mentoring relationship can be completed before this date or has the potential to extend beyond this date by mutual agreement that this is useful and is not creating dependency.

It is the responsibility of mentors to become familiar with and remain informed about relevant community and Y Connect activities that may support their mentee, and promote these activities, and other external programs and opportunities, to their mentee.

All mentors must be willing to undertake a criminal history check in the form of a National Police Clearance and obtain a Volunteer Working with Children Check (Blue Card) prior to being matched with a mentee. There is no cost to mentors for these checks.

Key Responsibilities and Competencies

Responsibilities

- Be proactive in initiating meetings and outings (minimum one per month) with your mentee for a period of 6 months and be willing to keep your commitment
- Attend compulsory training and ongoing supervision
- Provide an environment that is supportive of the mentee's emotional and physical safety
- Follow YWCA Australia and Y Connect Program policies and procedures
- Be willing to undergo a National Criminal History Check and obtain a Working with Children

Competencies

- Applicants with lived experience of disability is highly desirable. *Lived experience of disability refers to the personal knowledge and understanding gained through living with a disability, or through being a family member, carer, or close supporter of a person with disability.*
- We also welcome applications from people who have a strong interest in disability inclusion or experience working alongside people with disability.
- Good listening skills
- Interest in sharing and supporting
- Networks and experience on which to draw
- Access to a vehicle is preferred

At YWCA Australia, we live our values every day

