



Big Brothers Big Sisters



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS AUSTRALIA

# Annual Report 2022-2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE

# Chairman & The Board

**Well, another year has come and gone, Big Brothers Big Sisters has again been overwhelmed with requests for help and found extreme challenges with the demands of fulfilling the placements of young people of whom some are at risk with their suited Mentors.**

As Big Brothers Big Sisters offers many programs that are geared towards young people, investing into their futures and better outcomes, we are encouraged by the communities that support us whether in cities or regional areas.

With any organisation that has its base in the Not for-Profit space, the challenge is always set in how do we get our funding and more importantly our volunteers. Both are needed and highly valued.

We do commend our partnership with the folk that support and encourage us, our team has worked relentlessly for the last year again to ensure that we can continue to provide the programs that Big Brothers Big Sisters run.

A big thank you to all those that have helped and contributed in any way toward the outcome of this year. Trusting that the year ahead will allow us to grow our services to see no one in need, goes without the gentle hand up.



**Bernie Glaser,**  
Chairperson Big Brothers Big Sisters

## **Board of Directors**

Bernie Glaser - Chair  
Darryn Keneally OAM  
Andrew Kay  
Kingsley Munday AM  
Cindy Hynes



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

**Wow, what a year we have had at Big Brothers Big Sisters – deep and special thanks to everyone for all your support, which has come in so many ways. We are reminded daily that the issues our young people face are overwhelming: loss of a parent, loneliness, illness, bullying, violence in the home, the list goes on. The positive feedback we receive is evidence that our program does make a positive difference, but not just for the young person but also...**

- The mentors, **“I am surprised at how much the friendship has added to my own life, “no matter what my week looks like, I am always feeling positive by catch up time”.**
- And our parents/carers, **“Big Brothers Big Sisters has been a life raft for my family”,** says Paul, single father of 3 daughters.

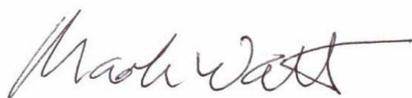
We want to thank our mentors who give so much time and dedication to their young people. Mentors meet weekly with their match and participate in a range of activities and give so much personally. The transformation that occurs with our young people is so encouraging and reinforces that creating new connections for our young people brings about “positive change, for life”. Thanks to our ‘village’ volunteers, community volunteers and our incredible talented staff. What an amazing group of people that support the operation of the programs and the organisation. Special thanks must go to our committed leaders Tania Hutchison and Cheryne Blom.

Our small team through their commitment and passion have also organised some fantastic fundraising events. Highlights from the past 12 months include a Gravel Bike Ride in Creswick, an Arts Auction Dinner, a Pub Choir in Tumut, a Aquathon in Wangaratta, an AFL Luncheon plus online mentoring information sessions, group mentoring for young boys in Ballarat and so much more. Over one thousand people have attended our events in 2023 and that would not have happened without the great support of our event partners: Indigenous Plumbing Foundation, PICAC, Corporate Cycling and City of Wangaratta. The contribution of Kingsley Munday AM in his support of the Arts Dinner was a real highlight.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters board and Leadership Council have been a great source of support, encouragement and have all been very active in assisting us to be able to provide the services that we do. We have felt privileged to have great support in our rural communities and some wonderful likeminded organisations, including Charis Mentoring, Coach Mentoring, Together 4 Youth, Short Statured People of Australia, Allcare Community Support and Stride Education.

With over 800 young people on our waiting list and many wanting to be mentors – our job is never done. Looking forward to you continuing to partner with us as we change lives for life through the power of mentoring.

If you are keen to know more or want to be involved please connect with me – [mark.watt@bbbsau.org](mailto:mark.watt@bbbsau.org)



**Mark Watt AM,**  
CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters





# About us

Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia has over 40 years' experience providing long-term, one-to-one mentoring programs throughout the community, in schools and online – helping to change the course of young people's lives.



**By matching a vulnerable young person with an adult volunteer mentor, we provide a safe environment to help build their confidence, increase their resilience and open their minds to new possibilities, ultimately creating stronger individuals and communities.**

## WHAT DRIVES US

Big Brothers Big Sisters knows that youth have the potential to succeed despite vulnerability and adversity. Confident in this potential and the value of professionally supported mentoring relationships, we work with young people who face any number of challenges, including not having the support of a positive adult role model.

## WHAT WE DO

Big Brothers Big Sisters offers one-to-one mentoring programs throughout the community, in schools and online which meet the varied needs of vulnerable children from 7 to 17 years of age, their families and the broader community.

Serving as positive, adult role models, our volunteer mentors teach vulnerable young people by example the importance of giving, and of giving back, of staying in school, and having respect.

We make sure our programs work safely, effectively and efficiently by implementing:

- Best practice recruitment and screening of mentors
- Ongoing training of mentors
- Structured, ongoing supervision of all mentoring matches documented standards, processes and policies

## HOW WE ARE DIFFERENT

Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs are proven to work and are different in a number of ways from many other mentoring organisations.

What makes our mentoring program unique is that it is long term, with participants committing to catching up once a week for a minimum of 12 months. This gives young people a stable relationship they can rely on over a significant amount of time rather than just a 'one off' occasion, which does not yield the same results.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has stood the test of time all over the world. Mentors have been mentoring young people in need around the world for 110 years and across Australia we have over 40 years experience. Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia is one of 14 countries affiliated with Big Brothers Big Sisters International, the world's largest volunteer supported mentoring network.

# Our Impact

## Why Youth Mentoring is Critical

Suicide is the leading cause of death for young Australians aged <sup>1</sup>

# 15-24

# 1 in 10

young people are completely disengaged from education, employment & training <sup>2</sup>

Mental ill health contributes to nearly

# 50%

of the burden of disease in young people <sup>3</sup>

# 75%

of mental health problems occur before the age of 25 <sup>3</sup>

# 1 in 3

young people are without adequate work (unemployed or under-employed) <sup>4</sup>

In Australia, it costs on average

# \$1,579

per DAY

to keep a young person in youth detention

vs

Cost of Big Brothers Big Sisters

# \$2,900

per YEAR

to mentor one vulnerable young person  
cost to screen & train volunteers as mentors \$700

Source:

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2015) Causes of Death

2 Reeve, R., Marjolin, A., Muir, K., Powell, A., Hannigan, N., Ramia, I. and Etuk, L. (Eds.) Australia's Social Pulse. Centre for Social Impact: UNSW Australia, Sydney and UWA, Perth

3 Kessler, R.C., et al., Age of onset mental disorders: a review of recent literature. Current Opinion in Psychiatry, 2007. 20(4): p. 359-364.

Kessler, R.D., et al., Lifetime prevalence and age-of-onset distributions of DSM-IV disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. Archives of General Psychiatry, 2005. 62: p. 593-602.

4 Muir, K., Butler, R. and Powell, A. (2015) A whacking stick is not enough to get young people into work, The Conversation

5 (Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2017, Ch 17 Youth Justice Services)

# Our Impact

## Social Return of Investment

### \$18:1

\$1 invested in mentoring by Big Brothers Big Sisters, returns \$18 to economically disadvantaged groups.<sup>1</sup>

### \$23:1

\$1 invested in mentoring by Big Brothers Big Sisters returns \$23 to society.<sup>1</sup>

Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs provide significant benefits to young people and the wider community.



### 96%

say they're happy<sup>1</sup>



### 92%

feel confident<sup>1</sup>



### 98%

believe they make good life choices<sup>1</sup>



### 81%

report financial literacy<sup>1</sup>



### 80%

pursue healthy lifestyles<sup>1</sup>



### 17%

more likely to be employed<sup>1</sup>



### 47%

hold senior leadership positions<sup>1</sup>



### 63%

have post-secondary education<sup>1</sup>



### 87%

have strong networks of family & friends<sup>1</sup>

Young people (Littles) who had a volunteer mentor (Big) in their life were:



### 46%

less likely to begin using illegal drugs<sup>2</sup>



### 27%

less likely to begin using alcohol<sup>2</sup>



### 52%

less likely to skip school<sup>2</sup>



### 33%

less likely to use violence<sup>2</sup>

Reference:

<sup>1</sup> Boston Consulting Group SROI Study Big Brothers Big Sisters Canada.

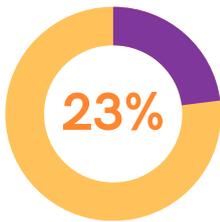
<sup>2</sup> Making a Difference: An Impact Study of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

## REASONS FOR REFERRALS

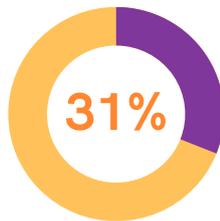
# Young Person Profile 2022-2023



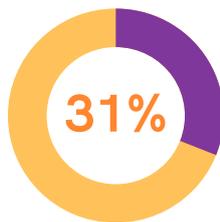
General need for role model (limited access to similar gender or age)



Social anxiety (environmental drivers such as COVID, social issues, anxiety)



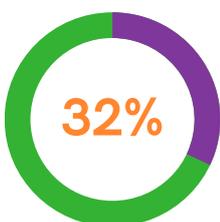
Family driven mental health (domestic violence caused issues)



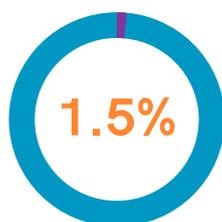
Diagnosed mental health issues (ADHD, Autism, Asperger's)



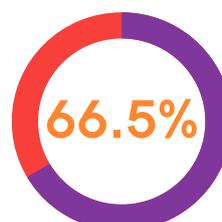
## GENDER & AGE



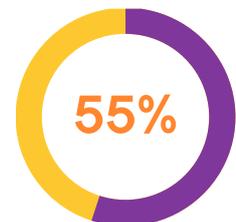
Female



Non binary



Male



Aged between 11 & 14

# Our Programs





Pictured: Nahla, Megan and Ambassador Sammy J

## Melbourne

**Melbourne is our home base with our operations and administration team supporting all our programs across the country to run at their utmost best.**

We are fortunate to have solid and reliable systems to ensure each area is adequately supported. This includes:

- Bespoke Customer/Client Relationship Manager
- Online Mentoring
- Online Volunteer Education Training Platform
- Evaluation Platform

Melbourne continues to grow stronger in its capacity to create the most mentoring matches. In 2022 funding from the Australian Government enabled us to branch out into the Western Suburbs as part of the Westside Rise project.

It is clear that the demand and need is still overwhelming post pandemic. What drives us to continue our work is the known outcomes we have seen from our mentor relationships including:

- Increase in confidence
- Building upon social skills
- Young people beginning to plan for their future: writing resume's with their mentor's help, finding part time jobs, deciding what they want to be in the future
- Young people speaking more positively at school: whether this be in relation to academics or friendships
- Caregivers reporting that young people are presenting positively in the home where they may not have been so positive before.

This year, we have had the opportunity to showcase many of our wonderful matches at events, such as the Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Dinner, AFL Final Series Luncheon, American Chamber of Commerce events and the Arts Dinner. These events allow us to showcase matches and young people, allowing them to share their stories and match experience. This not only gives the young person a new experience, but leads to development in skills such as public speaking and networking.

The team is in great hands led by a Senior Mentoring Coordinator, supported by Area Mentoring Coordinators and Specialist Advisors. Plus great Ambassadors like Sammy J. (pictured above)



## Sydney

**As part of our expansion into Sydney we recruited a new full time mentoring coordinator.**

**This has led to some exciting opportunities and partnerships to support young people in Sydney's west and bayside.**

### Young Lions Competition

In February 2023, Big Brothers Big Sisters proudly partnered with Australian Cannes Young Lions Competition as the charity partner for the design category.

Big Brothers Big Sisters aimed to use the competition and the power of design to establish corporate partnerships and raise awareness about the impactful work in the community.

### Youth Justice Partnership:

In March 2023, Big Brothers Big Sisters established a partnership Youth Justice NSW to offer young people aged 10-17 years who have had police contact, an opportunity to be matched with a mentor. This is part of the Youth Justice Short Term Remand Program and covers some inner city and bayside suburbs.

### ABC Radio

In May 2023, Big Brothers Big Sisters had the opportunity to appear on ABC Radio Sydney to raise awareness for the program and actively recruit mentors.

We utilised the radio platform to share an inspiring story of a match of 9 years to encourage involvement (see case study for further details).

### ★ CASE STUDY

Mentor and mentee matched for 9 years, matched when young person was in Primary School and he is now in Year 12. Young person has faced complex challenges such as foster care, family connected with the criminal justice system, loss, and grief.

His mentor states he has provided support through listening, providing guidance, and offering other perspectives.

The young person is engaged in education and is currently in year 12, his mentor is supporting him through the journey of high school and helping plan pathways for after school.

They have established a strong connection, symbolising the positive impact of long-term supportive relationships between mentors and mentees.



## Ballarat

**The Ballarat program continues to remain strong in the region. The one-to-one mentoring program is still in high demand and continues to make a positive impact on those involved.**

**Two exciting new programs were introduced to the community, called Supportive Friends and Men2B. These new initiatives enabled us to support more young people.**

### Supportive Friends Co Redesign

In 2023 we celebrated the work of the 33 participants in the Supportive Friends Mentoring Program Youth Co-Redesign group from Mount Clear Secondary College and Alfredton Primary School. These young people have been part of collaborating and co-redesigning since May 2022.

They have worked together to re-shape the Stride Supportive Friends friendship skills program giving young people and schools the opportunity to build cultures of friendship, connection and respect.

The celebration highlighted how important it is to give young people agency and leadership to share their voice and vision about building positive friendship cultures.

The Supportive Friends Mentoring program has delivered the co-redesigned friendship skills training to 580 students and engaged a further 30 students as friendship mentors. These friendship mentors are planning to deliver friendship projects in their schools to support their visions of positive friendship cultures.

### Men2B Group Mentoring

The Men2B Active Youth Mentoring program delivered 3 programs over the period 2022-2023.

Fundamentally the aim of the project is to connect young people to themselves, to each other and to the mentors. The program provides opportunities to learn the principles of friendship and respect.

Activities across the programs included bushwalking, bike riding, swimming, playing games, cricket, soccer, tennis, visiting agencies, cooking, visiting local community museums like Eureka Centre and Sovereign Hill as well as Ten Pin Bowling and the movies.

Overall the program was successful with a range of outcomes reported in completion surveys. Participants reported that their communication skills, awareness of communicating with others and their friendship skills and capacity to feel safe and trust others increased because of the program.

Providing positive male role models to young people with a focus on learning the skills of positive social interaction were goals that each of the programs achieved.

### ★ CASE STUDY - LACHLAN & SCOTT

Lachlan has lived in kinship care for 2 years with his sister and has experienced childhood trauma and dislocation from his family.

The school made the referral for a mentor believing he would highly benefit from our mentoring program next year. Lachlan is 12 years and will be going into secondary school next year.

Lachlan was matched with Scott, who is an active father of three who enjoys outdoors, bike riding and being in the bush.

They both love to spend time in nature doing activities such as walking up Mt. Buninyong and climbing the tower. At the last report Scott said they were getting along great!



Thomas (mentee) & Scott Lang (mentor)

## Wangaratta

**This has been the first full year in Wangaratta following an initial launch and set up period.**

**Led by our local mentoring coordinator, the support for the program has been strong from the people of Wangaratta.**

A community partnership of enthusiastic, skilled and committed volunteers has formed to support the program and work towards financial sustainability.

The drive to bring the program back to Wangaratta was inspired by 18 year old local, Chelsea Wilson. As a past mentee participant of the program she recognised the life long impact and the benefits it could bring to other young people.

In her words, “the benefits of these relationships are invaluable to the mentee as well as the mentor as they feel a sense of purpose and connection to others.

The community benefits as well due to creating positive relationships. We will see happier young people with lifted self-esteem, positive outlooks and futures”.

Four significant and overwhelmingly successful events have been held in Wangaratta during the year to raise awareness of the program and raise funds for the running of the program. These were a Fundraising Dinner, a Trivia Event, and our inaugural Aquathon, as well as a dinner of appreciation for our current and prospective mentors.

Following extensive efforts to connect and network across Wangaratta, referrals of young people have been received from a range of service providers, schools and community members. At this point, we have commenced supervising matches with a good pipeline of young people and volunteers in screening.

One young person with a significant history of trauma and current difficulties with behaviour and relationships has “100%” engaged with his mentor and built a strong friendship, creating strong possibilities for supporting the young person in the second 6 months of the program.



## Tumut, NSW

**August 2023, and just like that Big Brothers Big Sisters Tumut has been up and running for just over twelve months, and what an incredible journey it has been!**



Our goal for the first 12 months was to successfully launch the program, have five mentor/mentee matches made, and to secure enough funding to see out at least another twelve months of our program. Our Tumut Mentoring Coordinator, reached all three of those goals, plus more.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Tumut managed to meet our goal of having five matches set up by the 1st June 2023. Since then we have matched another two couples, with our eighth set to be matched very soon! Our goal for the second year of Big Brothers Big Sisters Tumut was to double our initial year of matches, and we're well on way to not only meeting this, but exceeding this!

The feedback we've received from our mentors, mentees and parents/caregivers is such an important part of our evaluation process, and what motivates us to keep going.

Here's what some of our volunteers, young people and families have had to share so far:

**“Dear Emma, thank you so much for matching me with Jess, she is the best. I have the best Tuesdays.” – Kiara, aged 11, Mentee.**

“It's been really great to watch my mentees confidence grow in the last few months, she seems more confident to speak and share her ideas freely, and is up for giving anything a go on our match activities.” – Phoebe, Big Brothers Big Sisters Tumut Mentor.

“Lilly Mae looks forward to seeing Sharon every week, she's always at the door with her shoes on ready to go! It's beautiful to see their friendship grow”, Krista, parent.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of likeminded individuals, and the incredible local business who have jumped on board to support Big Brothers Big Sisters Tumut financially, and also by supporting our events and fundraisers.

### ★ CASE STUDY – JESS AND KIARA

Jess and Kiara really enjoy their 'girl time' together. They spend their catch ups making earrings, doing macrame, walking the dogs and baking! They are also regulars at the Tumut Pub Choir, singing along and having a blast.

Kiara (Mentee): “It's even better than I thought it would be. My favourite part is just getting to see Jess on Tuesdays. I wish I could hang out with her every day. “

Jess (Mentor): “She's a whirl wind, she keeps me on my toes! I guess I was worried I might end up being a full-on counsellor, but we actually just have so much fun together! I know I have a friend for life in Kiara.”



## Griffith

**The Mentoring Coordinator commenced with Big Brothers Big Sisters in February 2023.**

### Community Engagement

There has been a focus on engaging with the community and raising awareness by attending a number of community engagement functions, including the Riverina Field Days. We have since received many enquiries about how to refer young people and how to become a mentor.

The committee have held 2 raffles this year and raised approximately \$1,800 and much community awareness of the program.

In June, an official Launch Luncheon was held to present the program, the local need and corporate sponsorship packages. The luncheon was sponsored by a local family owned restaurant (Limone Bar and Restaurant owned by the Piccolo family). There were 10 local business and agencies in attendance at the luncheon. A number of these businesses have engaged with the program with intentions to assist in both financial, and other support in the next 12 months.



Artwork donated for raffle by Caroline Williams

The challenge for Griffith has been earning the communities trust. We are slowly over coming this issue with a number of very trusted businesses and families coming on board to advocate and assist the program after attending the launch lunch.

### Future Planning

The program has not yet been opened up to young people, as our focus is on first recruiting and training volunteer mentors.

In the months ahead, the aim for Big Brothers Big Sisters Griffith is to gain a number of corporate sponsors to enable the program to continue in the region.

It is hoped that we will be able to recruit at minimum 16-20 Mentors to enable a minimum of 8-10 young people to be engaged in mentoring matches, symbolising the positive impact of long-term supportive relationships between mentors and mentees.



## The Hills

**In 2021 a small group of local community members in response to conversations with local schools started the process of establishing a community mentoring program for young people in the Dandenong Ranges.**

The group led by long time supporter, Jeanette Pritchard OAM, had two clear objectives. Strong community buy-in and building a relationship with schools. In October 2022 the program was launched in Monbulk by the then member for Monbulk, James Merlino. It was attended by a number of School Principals and Councillors from the Yarra Ranges Council.



Pictured: Jeanette Prichard OAM (left), with community supporters

### Focus on Monbulk

Since that time the focus has been on building community support and raising funds to get the program off the ground. As the Dandenong Ranges is not one cohesive community but rather a string of small townships it was decided to focus on the one location, Monbulk, with the idea of rolling it out in other townships in the future.

### Local Support

This has involved working closely with the wellbeing personnel at the Monbulk College.

Support by the local paper, attendance at the Monbulk Market, and a Trivia night have all raised awareness of the program.

Financial support has come from local community members, the Yarra Ranges Council and the local Bendigo Community Bank.

Because of all the support, we are excited to be able to allocate a part-time mentoring coordinator in Monbulk in 2024.

# Young Achievers Program



2023 YAP CAMP

## **2023 has been a busy year for our young achievers program!**

We have had a fantastic year of workshops and events. Each workshop has focused on something different, to allow our young people to expand their knowledge and skills. We have had experiences at workplaces from leading technology companies to allied health clinics. Our workshops have also had varying focus from wellbeing to interview skills.

Alongside our workshops, the young people have fostered fantastic connections with their mentors. Their sessions have varied from study sessions, social catch-ups, attending university open days, arts & crafts and so much more!

The 2023 YAP participants have demonstrated great commitment to the program and the mentoring experience. They have created a culture of inclusiveness and friendship amongst each other. After Covid-19, we understand more than ever the importance of connection. The Young Achievers Program has aimed to create lasting friendships amongst the participants, who can lean on and learn from each other.

Our vision of supporting young people to explore what it means to be well-rounded, community-minded people alongside high achievement, remains strong. We have seen amazing displays of leadership, confidence and growth throughout 2023 and we look forward to witnessing more.

As always, none of this would be possible without our sponsors and supporters. A special thank you to everyone that continues to support the Young Achievers Program.

We look forward to expanding the program and its impact in 2024.

# A YAP Success Story

Hi there, I'm Jin Liang, or also known as Mike.

**I was fortunately accepted into the Young Achievers Program (YAP) at the start of 2022 and it has been nothing but a wealth of opportunities that I've been offered.**

Although this was after I graduated high school, I've actually found the program considerably beneficial and useful for my professional and personal life. One of the great things about the program, is that we are paired with a mentor. I see my mentor as a combination of three things: a teacher, a guide and a mirror.

I say a teacher because of the lessons and experiences he's able to impart on me. I say a guide, because he is not trying to give me answers, but methods and processes to find my own answers. I say a mirror, because of how I am able to reflect my own experiences upon him and receive feedback. As well as the fact that we see a lot of similarities in each other, but just that my mentor is at a different stage of his life than I am.

Because of this partnership, I was notified of a job opportunity at his workplace. Of course, the job was in no way guaranteed, but was merely a chance he had offered for me to put my foot in the door - it was entirely my responsibility at this point whether to take it up or not. Up to this point, we've spoken so much about this idea of embracing rejection in our personal and professional lives, that I decided to take my chances regardless of how qualified or unqualified I was; you've got to start somewhere right?

Naturally due to the conflict of interest, he was completely out of the selection process, but I very fortunately got the job. The point I'm trying to make about my mentoring experience, is not just the fact I got a job opportunity, but I want to acknowledge more importantly, all the conversations we've had, the mutual sharing of experiences and the lessons I've gotten out of all this that has actually given me success.

Thank you to Big Brothers Big Sisters and my mentor, Matt.

# Online Mentoring - Ourspace

We worked quickly to respond to COVID understanding the negative impact social isolation was having on both the young people who are being mentored and those who are due to be matched.



## Ourspace - a unique, safe, secure online mentoring platform

### THE OUR SPACE PROGRAM

Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring is experiencing high demand and so many young people are feeling isolated. The increase in family breakdown, financial stress and disconnection has placed enormous stress on young people in vulnerable families, putting them at risk of increased mental and physical health problems.

'With face to face mentoring a challenging option for matching young people and mentors from different areas, we have been able to respond by facilitating matches to be online using a fit for purpose, secure online mentoring platform.

This really helps Big Brothers Big Sisters respond to the increasing demand for long term mentoring for geographically isolated young people or those in isolation due to health issues

### ★CASE STUDY - ALYSHA & SARAH

Sarah was learning from home and needed an online match and Big Brothers Big Sisters provided both Alysia and Sarah access to our online mentoring platform Ourspace.

Alysha and Sarah embraced the opportunity to catch up on the platform. The platform has allowed the pair to connect weekly and check in with each other at their regular time. They have built a life changing relationship and provided support for Sarah who has found a close friend in Alysha.

# Events

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## Dirty Pig & Whistle Gravel Bike Ride

Takes place over a fun weekend. Participants race or roll amongst the picturesque towns, fields, farms and forests of Creswick and Clunes of the Central Victoria's Goldfields.

As the chosen charity partner donated funds from the event go directly to Big Brothers Big Sisters.



## Annual Dinner

Our annual dinner is held at the RACV club in March each year. A wonderful event with entertainment provided by ambassador Sammy J and guest speakers including mentors and young people from the program.



# Events

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## Arts Auction Dinner

The Arts Dinner was a memorable experience with an arts exhibition, entertainment, great food & great people



## AFL Lunch

In partnership with The Indigenous Plumbing & Sanitation Foundation a fundraising lunch was held at the MCG to celebrate the 2023 AFL Season. The event was attended by AFL greats and was a great day of entertainment.





## OUR PARTNERS

# Stride Education

**Big Brothers Big Sisters and Stride Education have united to create a comprehensive Resilience and Wellbeing in-school program that offers whole school community skills building and mentoring.**

This unique model aims to create a culture of connection, friendship, and kindness in schools by offering skill development and capacity building workshops as well as support to vulnerable at risk youth.

The program is mapped over five stages:

- Stage 1: Skills building workshops delivered to a whole year level.
- Stage 2: Parent information sessions
- Stage 3: Teacher/wellbeing professional development and capacity building
- Stage 4: Peer-to-peer friendship mentoring training.
- Stage 5: One-on-one mentoring for offered to at risk students.

With the support of VIC-HEALTH funding, we delivered our Supportive Friends 2.0 program to Alfredton Primary School and Mount Clear College in Ballarat. The program included a co-redesign session with the students offering us a program created by young people for young people.

To date over 500 students participated in the workshops.

### STUDENT FEEDBACK

**“This program has been really helpful and made me want to be a better friend.”**

### TEACHER FEEDBACK

**“Our students have gotten a lot out of the program and are excited to create a friendship event at school.”**



## OUR PARTNERS

# Short Statured People of Australia

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia is proud of their partnership with Short Statured People of Australia. Our partnership is based on shared values and goals. It is tailored to meet both organisation's needs and objectives, for young people and their mentors.**

Working together we provide:

- Full training for mentoring coordinators
- Volunteer mentors group training
- Online mentoring platform – OurSpace
- Professional advice and ongoing support
- A central Client Relationship Management system (CRM)
- Shared research and evaluation
- Best practice – policies and procedures
- Marketing support
- Highest standard of national child safety and wellbeing

SSPA seeks to empower, assist and represent people of short stature, to enable individuals to assert their right to live in, participate in and be productive members of the community, and by so doing, maximise their potential as valued citizens.

Big Brothers Big Sisters supports the aims of SSPA including:

- Awareness
- Education
- Psycho Social
- Communication



Pictured: Meredith from SSPA (left), speaking at our Annual Dinner

# westsiderise



## OUR PARTNERS

## Westside Rise

**Westside Rise is an exciting new partnership with Charis Mentoring Inc. and COACH Community Mentoring.**

Our Westside Rise Project is a strengths based collaborative–community approach to improving holistic outcomes for at-risk young people situated in the western suburbs of Melbourne. The collective approach will provide support in key targeted settings: One to one support; Group Mentoring support; Family Support and Community Engagement.

Opportunities to refer or volunteer as a mentor open now.

The project is funded under the Safer Communities Fund Round Six Early Intervention with the Australian Government.

# Case Studies

## ★ Tamara (Mentor) and Lily (Mentee)

Lily and Tamara were matched in Boronia in 2022. They recently spoke at a launch in the Yarra Ranges about their experiences.

[Watch their story at The Hills Launch \(Sept 2022\)](#)



# Case Studies

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## ★ Michael (Mentor) and Scout (Mentee)

Scout and Michael were matched after his aunty sent through a referral. His aunty felt he needed more love and attention than she was currently able to provide.

Scout was also struggling to maintain friends in school and thought a big brother would be wonderful. His interests include playing soccer, Justin Beiber, following Richmond AFL and reading.

Scout was matched with Michael and they now enjoy spending time together especially going to the footy.

They are pictured here with Dippa, after telling their story at the Big Brothers Big Sisters annual dinner.



# Case Studies

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## ★ Jennifer (Mentor) & Sam (Mentee)

Sam and I were matched in 2002. This year we celebrate 20 years as sisters. At the time we were matched, Sam was 12 and I was 25. In the intervening years our relationship has definitely changed – from complete strangers to friends that we know will be in each other's lives forever.

If it was not for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, I know that Sam would never have entered my life. I am so grateful to the program for facilitating our meeting, and grateful to Sam for the past 20 years of our friendship.



## OUR SUPPORTERS

# Leadership Council

The Leadership Council is a group of business and community leaders that support Big Brothers Big Sisters in our work with young people and in the community through creating partnerships and supporting programs that engage and support young people.

The Leadership Council wants to lead a wave of impactful youth initiative programs and positive mental health initiatives for young Australians. Our aim is to deliver projects that celebrate independence, healthy well-being, and the spirit of entrepreneurship. Our Leadership Council will create a space to allow our youth to pursue creative paths, learn effective entrepreneurial skills and discover the power of sustainability.



Leadership Council - George Doukas, Kingsley Munday AM (supporter), Deborah Halpern OAM, Jon Michail, Mark Watt AM, Tony Mordini, Richard Zee, (not pictured) Stuart Polwarth, Jon-Paul Michail, Kon Karnezis, Mary-Jane Jean, Tania Hutchison

# Our Ambassadors

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Sammy J – Comedian Entertainer



Jordy Lucas – Founder, She Does This



Peter Wright – AFL Footballer



Warren Hill – Account Director Appscore



Emily Matthews – Youth Ambassador

# List of Supporters

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ALPINE TRUSS

A MURRAY AND SONS (DOMESTIC) P/L

ANDREWS FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
- SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND

BALLARAT FOUNDATION

BENDIGO BANK MONBULK

CALLIDA INDIGENOUS CONSULTING

COCA-COLA FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE  
FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY BANK MONBULK

CRESWICK CREATIVE

CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL

DARRYN KENEALLY OAM

DEBORAH HALPERN OAM

DEPT OF COMMUNITIES & JUSTICE  
- NSW

ELANOR INVESTOR GROUP

FRANK & FLORA LEITH

GAUDRY FOUNDATION

GEOFF LYNCH

GLOBAL CREDIT INVESTMENTS

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RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA

SARAH DOWNEY

SOCIAL ENGINE

THE BLAKENEY MILLAR FOUNDATION

THE BUSH CHEMIST

THE CHARLES PELLEGRINO  
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THE LANDMAN FOUNDATION

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TIM STEWART

VIC HEALTH

VINCENT LUCAS

WHEELTON FOUNDATION VICHEALTH

WINSLOW CONSTRUCTORS - WODONGA



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