



Young Life Australia is a community partner in many schools through its Volunteering in Schools program.

"We ask schools what they need, and work cooperatively to encourage individual students and the school community as a whole," says CEO Glyn Henman.

"Volunteers from local churches receive training and undergo Police and Working With Children Checks in keeping with school safety requirements. Our goal is to offer support to young people where they spend so much of their time," he says.

"We focus on promoting community and positive friendships within school while representing a bridge into the wider community. It is all shaped by the needs and priorities identified by the school," he adds.

For information on Young Life Volunteers in Schools, please call 1300 557 647 or email markstretton@younglife.org.au.



Lakeside College welcomes Young Life

Isabelle Poulos is leading a volunteer Young Life team at Lakeside College in Victoria this year.

"Last year I approached the school about whether Young Life could help support students at the school and the conversation led to the immediate introduction of Young Life pancakes and lunch-time games for students in Years 7–9," says Isabelle.

"We are back this year with a plan to have our pancakes once a month for the whole school community from Kindergarten to Year 12 but our main focus will be encouraging the Year 7–9 group, through weekly lunch-time games and mentoring.

"I have a small team who have come onboard this year. I am so grateful for their willingness to give

their time among other commitments," says Isabelle.

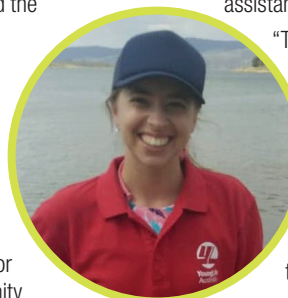
As well as volunteering at Lakeside College, Isabelle will be studying a Masters in Public Health in 2020 and working as Pharmacy assistant.

"There are two Year 8 girls who came along every week last year to the lunch-time games. They are best friends and so keen to continue this year.

"One of them loves to dance and to talk about dancing and I can see how thrilled she is that I share her passion.

"To me, Young Life has always offered programs full of fun and joy where everyone is welcome and included.

"And seeing these girls express themselves and share their ideas confidently really is wonderful."



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ADDING VALUE IN SCHOOLS

Nathan Wilson from Young Life in Redlands, QLD introduced the Friends Resilience Program for high school students at Alex Hills State High School last year.



The life skills learned over the course of two school terms have proven highly beneficial to the students, according to Nathan.

"They covered topics including how to set achievable goals, how to regulate emotions so they don't get the better of us, and how to manage conflict by neither being aggressive or passive but by being assertive and communicating well," he said.

"We discussed the value of having true friends in our lives and strong mentors who can guide us in helpful directions. The program is very conversational allowing those involved to reflect on their own experiences in a positive and beneficial way; and to consider choices matter."

"Learning these life skills really helps teenagers consider ahead of time how they might respond when they find themselves in challenging situations in life," said Nathan who thanked Alexandra Hills State High School for their input in the program.

"Young Life is about creating opportunities for connecting meaningfully with young people and this resilience program is another valuable way we achieve this."

Queensland University of Technology has recognised the contribution Young Life has been making through the Friends Resilience program and has awarded Young Life a grant from their Staff Community Welfare Fund. This has enabled Nathan to continue the program in 2020.



Kristina Winchester (above left) is Young Life's Chaplain at Mooroolbark East Primary School in Victoria. The garden was conceived by previous chaplain, Jody Hauser who cut the ribbon.

See our Friendship Garden!

"We worked on this project together as a 'refuge' and safe place where all are welcome. The school made a special occasion of the opening, honouring the students and thanking a generous community which donated materials."

The role of a Young Life School Chaplain is to work alongside staff in a caring capacity that supports the emotional wellbeing of students and their families. If a parent or child is experiencing a difficult time, School Chaplains are available to listen, support, provide guidance and help with referrals.

Like to know more about Chaplaincy and Student Wellbeing Support Officers in schools?

Contact Young Life Australia



1300 557 647



chaplaincy@younglife.org.au