Implementing the VYMA Quality Assurance Project

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The VYMA

Our vision is for strong, connected Victorian communities where young people have the opportunity to reach their potential through quality mentoring experiences.

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This Session

- The Australian context
- The need for the project
- The Project Objectives / Format
- Results so far

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The Very Very Beginning

Youth Mentoring arrives on Australian shores in the 70s

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mates
mentor assist ta
YOUTH MENTORING
ASSISTED PATHWAYS
MAP
AIME
Australian
Indigenous
Mentoring
Experience
Barwon
youth
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Standing Tall
A school Based Mentoring Program
Vision
The Smith
Family
yone's family
L2P
LEARNER
DRIVER
MENTOR
PROGRAM
kokoda
Youth Mentoring Program
Sch
olun
Prog
INCORPOR
WHITELION
courage to grow
YWCA
YMCA
We build strong PEOPLE
strong FAMILIES
strong COMMUNITIES
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Growth in Support

National benchmarks were set in 2000

"Effective and Responsible

Mentoring Programs"

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AYMN & VYMA

The national and Victorian peak bodies are established in 2005 / 2006

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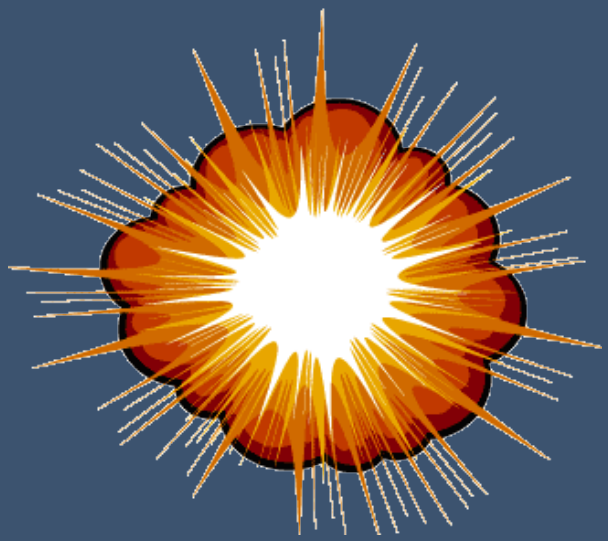
Boom time 2000's

We see an explosions of programs.

Mentoring is so hot right now!



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Too much of a good thing???

Program turnover and a dilution of traditional mentoring models

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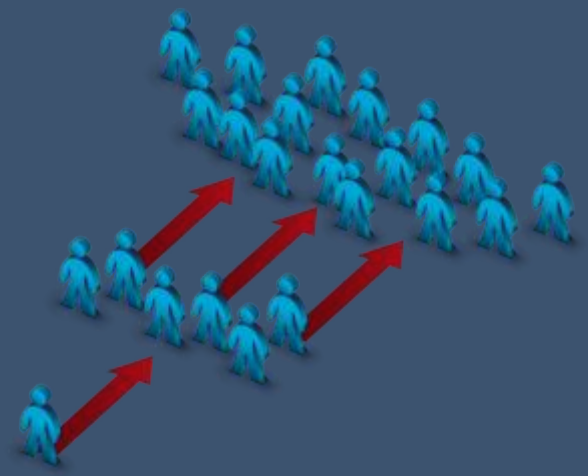
Victorian Context

- Since 2005, programs have x3
- Over 240 programs in VIC
- Over 7000 young people
- and 6000 volunteer mentors
- 45% metro based
- 55% regionally based
- Mix of SBM and CBM



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Some questions around quality practice begin to form….

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How do we manage quality?

(and hopefully avoid disasters)

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How do we identify quality?

(and prove it to others)

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Thus the QA Project is born!

- Support of 5 philanthropic funders
- Sector Consultation
- Scoping and Design
- Development
- More Sector Consultation

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How the QA Project works…

1. Managerial Commitment
2. Self Assessment
3. Resources & Review
4. Action Plan
5. Endorsement

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The Benchmarks

- 10 Elements of Effective Practice

1. Planning and Design
2. Management and Governance
3. Evaluation
4. Staff
5. Recruitment

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www.youthmentoring.org.au/benchmarks

The Benchmarks

- 10 Elements of Effective Practice

6. Screening and Selection
7. Orientation and Training
8. Making the Match
9. Monitoring and Support
10. Closing the Match

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www.youthmentoring.org.au/benchmarks

Participation So Far…

- 10 successfully completed
- 4 incomplete
- 12 in progress

- Mixture of:
- CMB, SBM, e-mentoring
- Regional and metro
- Large and small
- New and old

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Top 3
Problem Areas

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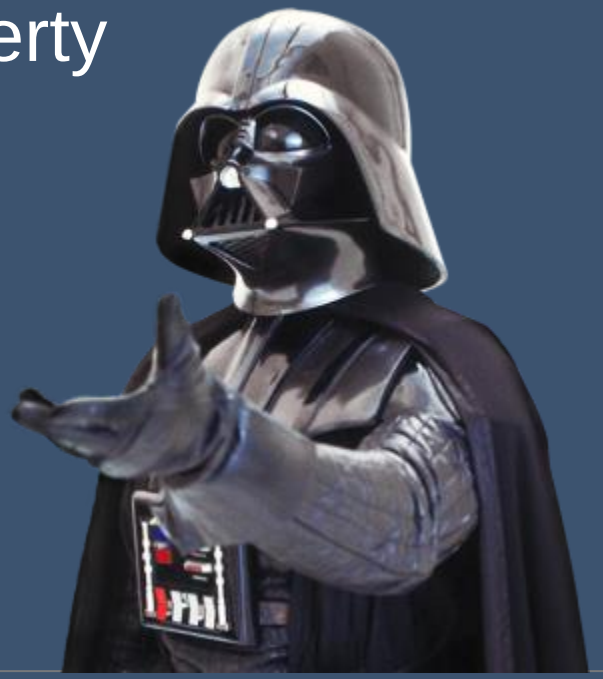
The Business Side

- Clear vision
- KPIs
- Business Plan
- MOUs / Intellectual Property

- Funding
- Marketing



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The Boring Bits

- Policies and Procedures
- More Policies
- More Procedures
- Code of Conduct

- Evaluation

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The Forgotten Stuff

- Orientation of Young People
- Closing the Match

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Top 3
Areas of Success

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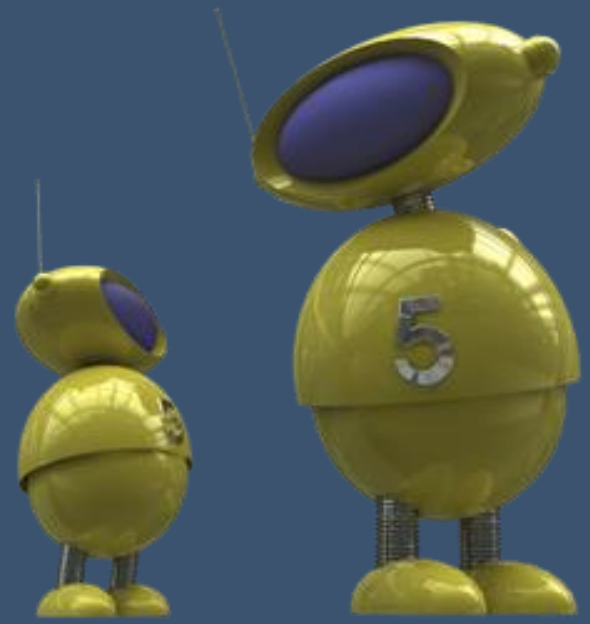
The Mentors

- Recruitment of volunteers
- Screening and selection
- Training



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The Match Making

- Considered approach
- Informed participants
- Paperwork & Process

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Ongoing Support

- Match monitoring / supervision
- Ongoing training
- Celebrations

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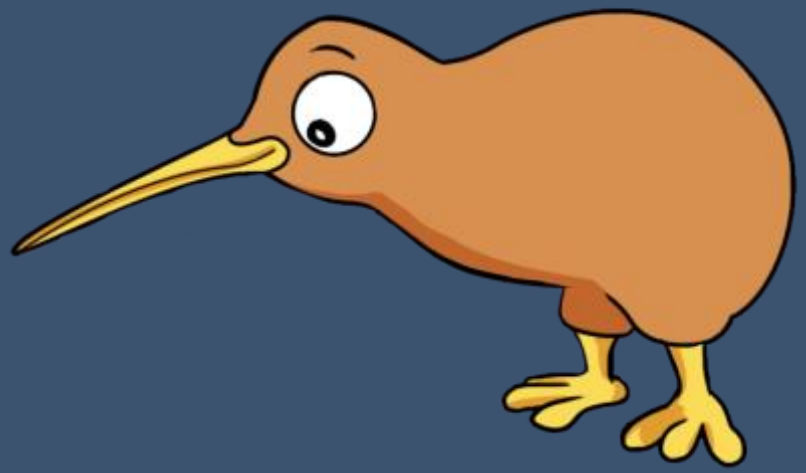
Relevance for NZ

- Children's Action Plan
- Safe Practice Guidelines
- Building practice and profile



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Any Questions?

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