

Gen Connection

Piloted during Term 2 with Year 11 VCAL Gen Connection saw students paired with a senior member, our Silver Warriors of the community. Most of the Silver Warriors reside in either nursing homes or independent assisted living and connect twice weekly via phone conversations. Students asked a series of guided questions to obtain information to write a biography on their mentor's life. The biography they create forms part of their assessment within the school curriculum.

During the pilot 29 students participated, resulting in 194 conversations with a total of 38 hours of conversation between students and Silver Warriors.

Data collected showed a lift in mood when comparing before after for both the students and the Silver Warrior, with no conversations leading to a decrease.

Students 75 (39%) of their conversations produced a lift in their mood/ happiness

Silver Warrior 64 (33%) of their conversations produced a lift in their mood/ happiness student's assessment.

Real connection and bonds were created and mutually respectful relationships formed during the duration of the pilot.

Following the success of the pilot the project is now being repeated with another 19 Year 9 and 10 Leadership students as well as an additional 10 Positive Performance Psychology students both based at the Mooroopna Campus. The projects have been well timed both running during stage 3 restrictions and including nursing homes on full lock down due to active cases present within their facilities thus exacerbating the feelings of isolation and loneliness. All resources for students and clips have been developed and placed on the lighthouse website allowing ease of accessibility with remote learning and incorporating a scaled approach to project delivery.

Initial reports from seniors have been overwhelmingly positive many stating they are learning as much if not more than my student buddy and receiving the calls is the highlight of their day. "Conversations not only made me think about the past, but made me think about the past in a positive way".



Equity, access,
inclusion, belonging,
trust and respect.



Diverse
collaborations.



Continuous learning.



Innovative ways of
working.



Social connection.



LighthouseProject
GREATER SHEPPARTON

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