

Case Study: Banksia Gardens- Broadmeadows Study Group

Background

Banksia Gardens Community Services is a neighbourhood house and community service organisation located in Broadmeadows. Banksia Gardens' programs focus on early childhood, education and training, young people, environmental sustainability and community participation and advocacy. Banksia Gardens has several learning support programs and won the Outstanding Community Out-of-School-Hours Learning Support Program award at the 2017 MY Education Awards.



L-R: Igor Pejic Youth Engagement Officer, Edgar Caballero Aspe, Youth and Education Development Coordinator, The Hon. James Merlino MP Minister for Education at 2017 CMY My Education Awards

The Program

The Broadmeadows Study Group offers three sessions of tutoring each week for primary and secondary students. The focus of the Broadmeadows Study Group is on academic support, engaging with school, enhancing healthy social relationships, encouraging physical activity and providing creative opportunities for students. Programs are open to all local primary and secondary students, but particularly target disadvantaged families including newly arrived and refugee background students. Specific support is provided to students with disabilities from Hume Valley School.

Factors Supporting a Successful Program

The Study Group is fortunate to receive ample support due to being a long-running program and part of a well-known, long-established community centre. There are strong links with other programs at the community centre and other local services for young people. Other helpful factors include:

- Access to philanthropic grants and staff with the skills to write successful applications
- Good links with local schools
- Contributions to the program by other not-for-profits
- Coordinator and tutor training from CMY

- Partnerships with universities and TAFEs providing volunteers on student placements.

Outcomes for Students

There is ongoing student participation in the Broadmeadows Study Group. Improvements are evident in students' social connections, academic performance and increased participation in sport, recreation and creative activities. Feedback from teachers indicates that students who attend the Study Group become more confident in class.

One example is Sana, who was shortlisted in the 2017 MY Education Awards. Sana's attendance in the Study Group led to improvements in her academic achievement, social skills, participation and contribution to the group.

Another positive outcome of the program is parent engagement. Parents often stay at Banksia Gardens to contribute to sessions, socialise and help students.

This resource was produced by CMY

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