Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mentoring Program

Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) is offering a mentoring program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are currently in Year 12 in BCE colleges and who are interested in a career in teaching in Catholic schools. This program builds on the successful implementation of the pilot program which commenced in Semester 2, 2013. BCE aims to increase the participation of young people in the teaching profession by supporting a successful transition from school to university.

The mentoring program supports the development of a one to one relationship between a student (mentee) and an experienced teacher (mentor). Mentors are role models and keep a focus on the individual's vision and dreams. They listen, ask questions, offer support, help find information, challenge ways of thinking and encourage self-belief.

The mentors (experienced teachers) will gain understanding of the mentoring process, by participating in professional learning funded by BCE in Term 1, 2018.

This round of the Mentoring Program, commencing in Semester 2, 2017, will continue through the final semester of schooling and the first 12 months of tertiary study (in 2018).

**BENEFITS:**

Successful Applicants will:

- Be mentored through Semester 2, Year 12 and for a further 12 months of an approved pre-service teacher education course
- Be eligible for employment as a part time school officer at a BCE school or college throughout the first year of the pre-service education course.

Upon successful completion of the pre-service education course and subject to suitability to teach, BCE will make an offer of employment as a teacher with a BCE college or school. This offer will be conditional on the applicant committing to a minimum service period of two (2) years subject to meeting satisfactory performance as a teacher.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:**

To be eligible for consideration for this Mentoring Program initiative, students must:

1. Identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both.
2. Be currently enrolled in a Brisbane Catholic Education college.
3. Intend to apply for a pre-service education course in 2017 at a University within the geographic boundaries of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

In addition, students who intend to teach in a primary school, or who are undertaking a primary specialisation in their pre-service education course, must be Catholic, as this is a requirement for classroom teaching positions in Catholic primary schools.

Once the mentoring program has commenced, students must maintain their eligibility by:

1. Gaining successful entry and commencing a pre-service education course within Archdiocesan boundaries.
2. Maintaining satisfactory academic and professional results.
3. Demonstrating appropriate professional behaviour while employed by or in a practicum placement with Brisbane Catholic Education.
SELECTION PROCESS:
1. Completion of the BCE application form including endorsement by the school principal.
2. Participating in an interview with parents and BCE personnel to determine suitability for the mentoring program.

The application form is available on:
I. Learning and Teaching Portal: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education
II. BCE Public Site: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mentoring Program

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLEGE’S ENGAGEMENT IN THE A&TSI MENTORING PROGRAM:
• supporting the student in their negotiation of an appropriate teacher mentor
• ensuring the mentor is aware of their responsibilities
• keeping the student’s parents informed
• seeking clarification on the use of the funding allocated
• monitoring the funds allocated
• supporting the student with their application for a BCE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 Teaching Scholarship in November 2017
• supporting the student in accessing school officer employment in their first year of university and negotiating ongoing mentoring arrangements.

OVERVIEW OF THE STUDENT’S ENGAGEMENT IN THE A&TSI MENTORING PROGRAM:
• seeking support in the negotiation of an appropriate teacher mentor
• seeking clarification to ensure a clear understanding of the program
• being aware of responsibilities as a mentee
• seeking support in applying for a BCE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 Teaching Scholarship in November 2017
• notifying mentor / Principal of any changes regarding eligibility e.g. post tertiary offers
• seeking and committing to school officer employment at a suitable school
• keeping contact details current specifically through the post school period (2018) e.g. email, phone.