



## GEELONG YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

### “GYE Program Initiative to Support More Youth of Geelong”

#### ORGANISATION OVERVIEW:

Geelong Youth Engagement (GYE) facilitate mentoring based programs that target vulnerable young people from our community with the focus on - encouraging engagement with education, employment, family and to Increase Youth Confidence, Building Resilience, Create Engagement, and Increase Self-Belief.

Currently GYE facilitates two successful youth programs. Our flagship program is the Geelong Kokoda Youth Program (GKYP) and the Road Safety Program – ‘You Just Never Know’. The young people selected to undertake the GKYP, an intensive year long program, are mentored in personal development, fitness, health, diet, and most important role modelling with stable and genuine support.

GYE program’s help young people work through the challenges they are facing in their lives; the reason for their disconnection can be for a number of reasons that may include truancy, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, suicidal tendencies, self-harming, anti-social behaviour, family violence, mental health amongst others. As an organisation, we work closely with the Government secondary schools in the Geelong region supporting young people from ages 15-18 that the school identify could benefit from our programs.

GKYP has been running since 2013, previously facilitated by Victoria Police who still have a strong affiliation with GYE. Due to timeframes and funding, GYE is limited to how many young people can participate in GKYP each year and have developed two new programs to begin in 2022 to support more young people from our region.

#### HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED:

**External trainers, first aid training, events, capital items & small amount of operational expenses – grant spread over two years**

GYE plan to begin a new youth program 2022 based on the same values of GKYP but on a smaller scale and will be focused on building self-confidence, community awareness and support the young people in need to work through their challenges. The program is planned to run two afternoons per week. The sessions will be 1 ½ hours long with 45 minutes involving physical activity and the second half will be focused on goals, also hearing from professionals or guests who can support their current challenges and advise positive guidance into the future i.e. dietitians, youth workers, psychologists, Victoria Police members, sports people, everyday people who have worked through challenges in their lives.

Goal setting and commitment to these goals is a large component of the program. The 3 focus areas for the young people will be: 1) Physical Challenge; 2) Community Service; 3) Fundraising. Although the program will only be one and a half hours a week of contact as a group the goals the young people set will require commitment of their own time and help them focus on something positive.

**Note: GYE is a recipient of a Geelong Community Foundation grant for 2021/22 and the Adroit Capital grant for 2021/22.**