



The Learning Project (TLP) 2017 Annual Report

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1. Introduction

The Learning Project (TLP) is a key initiative of Youth in Motion Incorporated, aiming to provide educational support to at-risk youth. In 2017, volunteer tutors involved with The Learning Project tutored at weekly Wednesday afternoon sessions at Naremburn school as well as at HSC Lock-ins held by Willoughby Council at Chatswood Library.

Tutoring at Naremburn School (250 Willoughby Rd, Naremburn, NSW, 2065) was held on Wednesday afternoons (1:20-5:30 pm) during the school term, with tutoring sessions running in 1 hr blocks. Clients from Naremburn school, from years 11 and 12, were tutored during the 1:20-2:20 pm block and external clients were tutored during the 3:30-4:30 pm and 4:30-5:30 pm blocks. All clients experienced disadvantage within one or more of the categories listed by UAC Educational Access Scheme i.e. disrupted schooling, financial hardship, home environment and responsibilities, English language difficulty, personal illness/disability, refugee status, school environment.

Willoughby Council held HSC Lock-Ins at Chatswood Library four times during 2017, on Friday, from 6-9 pm. Access to the Library for the Lock-In was restricted to HSC students to allow them extra time to study, relax and collaborate after the library's regular closing time. YIM provided tutors for the Lock-Ins in 2017, to provide support to the HSC students as well as to raise awareness about our tutoring program at Naremburn School, in the hopes that it would attract more clients/volunteers. In late 2017, YIM decided to cease our involvement in Willoughby Council's HSC Lock-Ins as the vast majority of attendees did not match our target demographic (i.e. they were not at-risk youth) and the possible marketing potential was not being fulfilled.

2. Summary of Naremburn School operations

2.1. Tutor recruitment

All tutor recruitment in 2017 occurred through the Google Form application (<http://goo.gl/forms/99ltJJUeanUp4fwj1>) accessible on the YIM Facebook page. A total of six applications were received and accepted in 2017. Of the total 11 tutors involved in tutoring at Naremburn School, 3 were recruited in 2017 (using Google forms application), 6 were recruited in 2016 (some using former Word Document application and some using Google forms application) and 2 were members of the core YIM management team.

Tutors volunteered a total of 99 hr 5 min throughout the year (note that if a tutor helped two students during a 1 hr tutoring session, this is counted as 2 hr of support), amounting to a median tutoring time of 4 hr 55 min (range: 50 min- 36 hr 50 min, IQR: 10 hr 10 min), among the tutors who were not YIM team members. The majority of this time volunteered was from the efforts of three dedicated tutors who provided 36 hr 50 min, 24

hr and 15 hr 40 min of educational support, each. Key reasons for tutor dropout during the year were university timetable changes or additional commitments.

2.2. Naremburn School Clients

TLP provided educational support to a total of 12 Naremburn School clients (11 yr 11s and 1 yr 12), every Wednesday from 1:20-2:20 pm, throughout the school year, for a total of 109 hr and 55 min, with a median of 7 hr 23 min (range: 1 hr - 22 hr 5 min, IQR: 8 hr 50 min) tutoring per student. This educational support took three main forms:

- Tutoring by YIM-recruited tutors: 68 hr
- Providing an environment for independent learning: 32 hr 55 min
- Providing an environment for Naremburn school teacher-assisted learning: 9 hr

Naremburn students attended a median 8.5 tutoring sessions (range: 1 - 18 sessions, IQR: 7.5 sessions), out of the possible 34 sessions held across the year (average attendance: 26%). Key reasons for missed sessions included, students lack of attendance at school and dropping out/completion of schooling. There was a significant drop in tutoring attendance in the second half of the year (July-December) compared to the first half of the year (February-June), with a total of 23 hr 30 min of support provided in the second half compared to 86 hr 25 min in the first half. This is potentially due to higher drop-out rate and decreased motivation towards the end of the year.

2.3. External Clients

TLP provided educational support to a total of 4 external clients; one was in year 12 from North Sydney Girls' High School, one was in year 8 from Cammeraygal High School, one was in year 10 from North Sydney Girls' High School and one was in year 11 from Forrest High. Two were referred by Taldumande Youth Services, while one was referred by a parent and the other by their school. A further three referrals were received from Taldumande Youth Services but these clients did not engage in The Learning Project during 2017. All external clients received educational support via individual tutoring by YIM-recruited tutors and were tutored in either 3:30-4:30 pm or 4:30-5:30 pm blocks on Wednesday afternoons during the school year.

External clients engaged in a total of 31 hr 5 min of tutoring across the year. While attendance is difficult to measure among the external clients, as one client dropped out early in the year, and two only commenced tutoring late in the year, our one regular external client had high attendance (21/24=88% sessions attended) and did not attend only when sick.

3. Future directions

The Learning Project operations at Naremburn School will continue in 2018 with the same structure as in 2017. We hope to increase tutor recruitment via increased Facebook campaigning and by using our website. Equally, we hope to increase our external client numbers with the continued support of Taldumande Youth Services, local schools and other youth services in the area. Expanding our services to other areas around Sydney has the potential to increase our tutor and student numbers and retention, and will be

the target of our efforts in 2018. We have also begun to investigate other locations around Sydney which contain students in our target demographic, where we may provide our tutoring service to HSC Lock-Ins

(https://drive.google.com/open?id=1mQKPBL42zSOEC_sZPakT8y0ayX7GyNJ8xBKJyDv7mGw).

4. Acknowledgements

The Learning Project could not have operated this year without the following individuals and organisations. We are very grateful for their work and ongoing support.

- Naremburn School staff (particularly Larissa) for providing continued support of our service and a venue for tutoring
- Our dedicated tutors who have given up their time to support our clients throughout the year
- Our wonderful and inspiring clients who try their best even under difficult circumstances
- Taldumande Youth Services and North Sydney Girls' High School for referring their young people to our service