

Women and Mentoring Young Women's Program:

Women and Mentoring's (WAM) Young Women's Program assists cisgender and transgender young women and non-binary folk aged 12–24, who are identified as at risk or in the early stages of contact with the criminal justice system. The program acts as both a preventative and early intervention approach for marginalised young women and gender-diverse young people living in the Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Dandenong, and Casey communities. Participants are matched with an individual supportive volunteer mentor, and all WAM mentors are trained and resourced to provide appropriate support tailored to each participant's needs.



"Sometimes you just need someone to talk to. Not a counsellor, not a family member, just another woman who gets it."

Common characteristics for this cohort of young women in the WAM Young Women's Program are:

- Disengagement from school or minimal /disrupted attendance;
- Child Protection or Youth Justice involvement;
- Lack of positive female adult role models
- Significant intergenerational issues such as familial drug/alcohol misuse, family violence, and mental health disorders
- Associating with known male offenders
- Engaging in risky behaviours
- Vulnerable to exploitation

WAM empowers women to improve their life outcomes. Each mentoring pair is unique as are the outcomes for each woman, but through meeting regularly, offering practical assistance and non-judgemental support, they work together on goals identified by the participant to positively change their life. Our program is built on the values of integrity, respect, belonging, and social justice.

To find out more about the Women and Mentoring Young Women's Program, please email Cyanna@womenandmentoring.org.au

For more information about WAM please visit: www.womenandmentoring.org.au