



United Way Glenelg

***MEDIA RELEASE***

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**United Way Glenelg partnership guarantee students are ready to succeed**

United Way Glenelg continues its strong association with the Portland Secondary College's Portland Re-Engagement Program (PREP) by administering all funds raised for the innovative Support a Student Placement Initiative.

The scheme encourages individuals and businesses to pledge \$2000 annually to support a local young person to continue their education at PREP. These students have typically become disengaged with the mainstream education system and are considered at-risk of being lost to formal education altogether.

Anne Murphy from the Glenelg and Southern Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network, a key partner in this initiative encourages individuals or families to donate to the scheme, contributing whatever amount they can. "It's a great opportunity for groups of people to get together to sponsor a placement between them and all donations are eligible as a Tax deductible donation," she added.

As highlighted in recent press, program such as this cost more to run effectively than mainstream education. The Re-Engagement Steering Committee, together with the College Council, has developed this initiative as a short term funding solution while lobbying continues to government to improve funding models for alternative settings.

"We hope that the government will reaffirm its commitment to young people of our region by securing ongoing funding for this vital program\'' College Council president, Karensa Smith said.

United Way Glenelg has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the PREP Steering Committee regarding the administration of the Support a Student Placement Initiative funds.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Angelino said that taking on the administration of the funds raised was a practical way for UWG to support the positive work being done by the Re-engagement Program.

"At United Way Glenelg we believe that education is a crucial building block for a good life.

"The PREP is to be congratulated on their hard work re-engaging local young people in education. UWG is thrilled to be able to support the wonderful work in this way and we believe this is a great example of what the community can achieve by working together.

"Together with the Portland Re-engagement Steering group we will continue to advocate on behalf of the students and better understanding of the issues preventing young people from succeeding" stated Ms Angelino.

For more information on the Support a Student Placement Initiative including how you can support the program please contact Nicole Angelino on 0410 51 3305 or via email [mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au](mailto:mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au) or Vicki Taylor at Portland Secondary College, 55231344 or [taylor.vicki.r@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:taylor.vicki.r@edumail.vic.gov.au).

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**Media enquiries to Nicole Angelino on 0410 513 305.**