



OFF TO WORK WE GO!

As recently as two years ago, David Haigh says that he would have been “scared and nervous” if he had been left to work at an organisation in the community without a teacher or parent with him. However after having participated in Mater Dei’s Structured Workplace Learning Program (SWP) for 18 months, David now feels “confident, independent and grown-up”. So much so that he now has aspirations to either enrol in a TAFE course or seek work in an office or computer-based environment when he graduates with his Life Skills Higher School Certificate at the end of the year.

“I enjoy coming to school in work style clothes because I feel like the adult that I am instead of when I’m wearing my school uniform”, says David. “I like working the longer hours and would like to extend the time I spend at SWP.”

David’s mum, Jennifer, agrees: “He has enjoyed interacting with adults and employers. I believe it has given him greater confidence and increased his maturity.”

SWP is successful because of its relevance and currency, the generosity of the host employers and their caring and professional mentorship of our students. David has acquired so many useful and widely regarded workplace skills at South Western Sydney Medicare Local in Campbelltown, Pizza Hut in Camden, the offices of Chris Patterson (pictured), Member for Camden and Carrington Centennial Care in Camden.

David has enjoyed his various work placements for lots of different reasons, including his helpful supervisors and says “I was always glad to see that Katherine was at work when I was at Carrington because she was especially nice!”

HONOUR ROLL

We acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their support of our Structured Workplace Learning Program (SWP) students this year:

- Advanced Performance Machining, Smeaton Grange
- Afford, Ingleburn
- Back Galley Café, Camden
- Blooms the Chemist, Camden
- Camden Fruit Barn, Elderslie
- Camden Hire, Narellan
- Chris Patterson, MP
- Jenny’s Kindergarten, Narellan Vale
- McDonald’s, Camden
- Meals On Wheels, Camden
- Poplar Tourist Caravan Park, Camden
- Russell Matheson, MP
- Vivid Hair & Beauty Salon, Narellan

We welcome support from local businesses to join us as SWP Partners.

Plenty of support is offered to participating businesses and our students from the Mater Dei staff.

Enquires to Alison Meani, Secondary Coordinator.