

ALTC LSES Environmental Scan

1. Institution

University of Western Sydney

2. Contact Person (and contact details)

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3. Name of Program/Initiative

MATES@UWS

3.1 **URL:** www.uws.edu.au/mates

3.2 **Start Date/Duration:** Trialled August 2011, rolled out March 2012. Program runs for first 6 weeks of session

4. Brief outline of program

MATES@UWS stands for Mentoring and Transition Equals Success at UWS. It is a peer mentoring program

Starting out at university can be a daunting experience. Having the support of students who have been there before you can help to make settling in easier.

5. Purpose/Aims

MATES@UWS is about providing first year students with the opportunity to be connected with students who are in later years of study. This helps students to make social networks and acquire knowledge and skills to help settle into life at university. The objectives of MATES@UWS are as follows:

- to provide commencing students with an excellent source of information about the Uni and its resources by matching them with a more experienced student (mate) who acts as a mentor
- to reduce commencing students' social isolation by introducing them to a small group of peers on their campus
- to raise commencing students' awareness of the range of student services and resources available and how they can access them
- to give new students a personal connection with the Uni

The program runs for the first six weeks of session.

6. Breadth of program (is it in a particular subject, program, school, faculty, across the institution, campus, with a particular cohort, etc)

MATES@UWS is for all commencing students. The program is offered on each campus of UWS. First year students are matched with students in later years of study, on their home campus

7. **Category (please select all that apply and provide explanation where necessary)**

Category	Y?	Explanation
Policy		
Curriculum		
Program	Y	
Other (please specify)		

8. **Resources (optional – we are trying to determine what sort of resourcing is necessary to make the initiative work)**

8.1 **Start up budget:** \$90,000

8.2 **Ongoing budget:** \$90,000

9. **Outcomes**

9.1 **Uptake:**

- 26 student participated in trial program (Bankstown campus only) in Spring 2011 (15 student mentors/ 11 commencing students)
- 366 students participated in the program in March 2012 when rolled out to all campuses (53 student mentors/313 commencing students)

9.2 **Evaluation(s) conducted to date - Informal or formal) – and details of findings:** Evaluation currently being finalised. Survey completed for Spring 2011 program which provided very positive feedback

9.3 **Evidence of success:** Students who participated in program in Spring 2011 as mentees/new students engaged in the program as mentors in Autumn 2012

9.4 **Evaluation(s) planned (and dates for this/these):** Evaluation currently being finalised for Autumn 2012. Evaluation for Spring 2012 to be conducted October 2012

9.5 **Major challenges:**

- Being unable to predict potential uptake for program
- Having sufficient number of mentors on every campus to allow matching for every new student who registered for the program

9.6 **Other (Please specify):**

10. **Publications/Reports (including links to those publically available)**