

Environmental Scan

1. Institution

Charles Sturt University

2. Contact Person

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3. Name of Program/Initiative

Student Mentor Program

3.1 URL: <http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/my-life/support/mentoring/student-mentor-program>

3.2 Start Date/Duration: January 2011 - ongoing

4. Brief outline of program

The Student Mentoring Program (SMP) provides students in their first session of study with access to a trained student mentor, who offers support, assistance and strategies to assist with the transition to university life and encourage development as self directed learners.

Student mentors assist and challenge 1st year students to enhance their skills and knowledge, to improve their opportunity for academic success and development as self directed learners. The SMP is available across all modes of study to students via face to face, online, video and telephone support utilising CSU available technologies.

5. Purpose/Aims

- To enhance the student experience through the mentor support program and resources.
- To provide a framework for a positive and supportive environment for identified 1st year students.
- To provide opportunities for interaction between 1st year students and current students developing positive role models and passing on acquired knowledge.
- To strengthen the networks that supports the orientation of new students to the University culture, together with the services and programs available
- To enhance and support the retention and success rates of 1st year students.
- To develop and provide leadership and interpersonal development for mentors.

6. Breadth of program

All enrolled CSU students in their first session of study.

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

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

8. Outcomes

8.1 **Uptake:**

927 Students 201130

8.2 **Evaluation(s) conducted to date – (Informal or formal) – and details of findings:**

Informal evaluation at the end of the first session:

- Of the 345 student mentor application since January 2011, only 30 are LSES.
- 28 Referred form the Student Success Team.

8.3 **Evidence of success:**

Session 201130

	Distance	Internal	Grand Total	% of Withdrawn/Cancel from total		
Mentor Program	160	767	927			
Active Student	149	738	887			
Withdrawn Course Transfer		2	2	Distance	Int	Total
Withdrawn/Cancel	11	27	38	6.88%	3.52%	4.10%
Not Mentor Program	7446	4087	11533			
Active Student	6380	3842	10222			
Graduated Student	1		1			
Program Complete	103	5	108			
Withdrawn Course Transfer	5	1	6	Distance	Int	Total
Withdrawn/Cancel	957	239	1196	12.85%	5.85%	11.70%
Grand Total	7606	4854	12460			

8.4 **Evaluation(s) planned (and dates for this/these):**

- End of Session 2 – October 2011

8.5 **Major challenges:**

- Training of DE Mentors
- Finding mentors for all courses on all campuses
- Advertising of service to students

8.6 **Other (Please specify):**

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