

Supported Education at Stepping Stone Clubhouse

International Standard for Clubhouse Programs Education

#25 The Clubhouse assists members to further their vocational and educational goals by helping them take advantage of adult opportunities in the community. When the Clubhouse also provides an in-house educational program, it significantly utilizes the teaching and tutoring skills of members.

How Stepping Stone assists members to access and sustain adult education opportunities in the community:

- Assistance in enrollment or relevant tutoring support for TAFE/university courses. TAFE – Technical Adult Further Education – is similar to Community Colleges.
- On site support at educational facilities – this may include sitting in on lectures and helping members to take notes or having lunch with members at school.
- A buddy/mentoring system – a staff/member that knows a campus may assist members with familiarization of the campus, e.g. library facilities.
- Introduce/set-up meetings with Disability Support Officer at campuses.
- We have developed courses that have been only for members. In the past we have had a basic computer course at TAFE that was solely for Stepping Stone members.

How Stepping Stone assists members in-house:

Flexible Support

- The support is based on the needs of the member. Support may involve:
 - Proof reading assignments
 - Assisting with writing letters/applications to access courses
 - Driving to and from campus
 - Dealing with Social Security (Centrelink), education allowances
 - Being a “designated supervisor” for exams for members doing open learning (distant education)
 - Tutoring
 - Researching
 - Assisting with study requirements, e.g. going through homework
 - Assisting with computer skills

Support Unit Based

- *Support is primarily unit based.* During unit meetings, members are asked if they require assistance with education. Assistance may involve looking and enrolling in courses, writing/proof reading assignments, talking about how study is going.
- Outreaching to members who are studying: phone calls and emails.
- Units ring members from their unit who are studying or interested in studying, inviting them to the weekly Employment and Education Dinner.

Employment and Education Unit:

- Sends monthly Employment and Education newsletter to members
- Tracks information of members studying
- Collects and maintains data for funding body
- Updates education resource information
- Makes and organizes congratulation cards
- Researches and informs house of up-coming courses in the community

Celebration

- Focus on celebrating members starting and finishing courses – at whole house meetings, in unit meetings and sending congratulation cards.
- Attend graduation ceremonies of members

Visual photos/signs in the clubhouse to indicate an education focus.

Extra Support Available

- Tuesday evenings, after the WOD and before the Employment/Education dinner, members and staff are also available for education support/tutoring. Members nominated as tutors and indicated their “skills” or expertise they have to offer.

Designated Area – “Knowledge Nook”

- Have a designated area that is away from the work ordered day where members can have a quiet study area.
- Have computer notebooks with internet access available for members to use in “Knowledge Nook”.

Launch of Supported Education

- Afternoon where presentations were provided by colleges, universities and members who have been involved in study.