

Information Sheet for Young People

What does the Program do?

Big Brothers - Big Sisters Geelong provides friendship and fun to young people who would like another adult in their life. We believe that no one can ever have too many people who care about them. Some young people also really like the idea of having an adult to talk to who is not their parent.

If you were matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister you would get together for at least an hour once a week and do things which you both enjoyed doing, matches are usually for at least 12 months or longer. Some ideas might be playing basketball, going to the beach, watching movies, cooking, walking the dog or bike riding.

Who are the Big Brothers / Big Sisters?

They are volunteers who have agreed that all young people could benefit from having an extra adult in their lives. Because they are volunteers, they do not get paid like a teacher or a doctor. They spend time with you because they think it would be fun, and because they have some free time available.

Not just anyone can become a volunteer. They have to go through a number of interviews, do some tests and even have the police check them out. The most important thing is that they can get along with young people.

Can I get a Big Brother / Big Sister?

You are eligible for a Big Brother / Big Sister if you are between the ages of 12 and 18, maybe having some trouble making friends or getting into fights at school, problems at home, or maybe you could just do with that extra boost of confidence by having someone around who is especially for you.

When can I get a Big Brother/ Big Sister?

There isn't really any way of knowing. It might be really soon, like the next few months, or you might have to wait longer than a year. The wait can be long because there are lots of young people and parents who agree that having a Big Brother or Big Sister is a good idea. What we can say is that when you are matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister, that person would have been chosen especially for you, based on what you tell us you like to do and also the type of person each of you are.

How do I get a Big Brother /Big Sister?

When we have a volunteer who we think you would get along with, we arrange a meeting. Your parent/guardian, the Big Brothers - Big Sisters Program worker, the volunteer Big Brother/Sister and you would be at the meeting. This would give you a chance to 'check out' the volunteer, and also chat to the program worker about the program. You'd then need to call the program worker the next day to say if you thought it was a good match.

If the match goes ahead we would meet again after three months just to make sure everyone was doing well and then again when a year was up.

What does the Program Worker do?

To help you and your Big Brother / Big Sister and your friendship grow the BBBS worker will catch-up with everyone regularly. This means talking to you, your parent/guardian and your Big Brother or Big Sister. If there seems to be a problem, the worker will try to help everyone sort it out as quickly as possible.

What do you think?

If you think this is something you would be interested in being involved in. You can speak with your worker, parent or make contact with Petrina Hare the BBBS Senior Program Worker at Barwon Youth on 5221 4466.