



**TRAVANCORE  
SCHOOL**

**Operation Newstart Western**

## Contents

OPERATION NEWSTART WESTERN .....	3
PROGRAM AIMS .....	3
THE PROGRAM.....	3
PROGRAM FACILITATORS .....	4
LOCATION .....	4
FEES.....	5
CAMPS .....	5
EQUIPMENT.....	5
SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE COMMITMENTS.....	5
FAMILY COMMITMENTS.....	6
CONSENT, MEDICAL AND EVALUATION FORMS.....	6
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION & GRADUATION.....	6
TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL .....	6
STUDENT EXPECTATIONS .....	7
PROGRAM CALENDAR .....	8

# OPERATION NEWSTART WESTERN

*“Enhancing the lives of, and giving direction to young people at risk”*

At Operation Newstart Western, students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to strengthen their sense of self and develop and maintain positive relationships. The program empowers young people to create positive change through engaging with outdoor adventure activities, hands-on learning experiences and opportunities to understand themselves. Our program is designed to support students to experience success, develop positive connections and increase motivation for learning. Our aim is to support students to increase engagement in education, learner confidence or explore alternative educational pathways.

This intensive 7-week program is designed to improve positive relationships, by enhancing connections between students, their families and schools. A focus of our program is to connect with the broader community by creating and implementing a community-based project that aims to have a positive impact.

Throughout the program we focus on individual strengths and provide a variety of experiences that challenge students to use these to overcome challenges. We celebrate success and trial strategies to increase confidence, self-regulate, unlock leadership potential or improve social communication skills. We will collaborate with students to create a support plan to utilise these strategies when needed at school, home or with peers.

## PROGRAM AIMS

- To provide students with unique learning opportunities in a range of environments which creatively challenge and motivate them.
- To assist students in developing tangible skills which promote their sense of individual achievement, self-confidence and self-awareness.
- To build positive connections between the young person and their family, school and community.



## THE PROGRAM

The program runs across a 7-week period, where the young people will attend ONW 3-days per week and maintain contact with their school 2-days per week.

Core elements which contribute to the program's success are:

- Adventure activities & camps
- Personal development & life skills
- Future focus & vocational orientation
- Community involvement
- Family involvement
- Partnerships with School, during & after the program



## PROGRAM FACILITATOR



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## LOCATION

Operation Newstart Western is based at Travancore School, which is situated in the inner western suburb, Travancore. On program days students will meet ONW Facilitators at Footscray Station, where they will be transported by minibus to the relevant activity.

Interviews and Parent Sessions take place at the Travancore School or alternatively online where necessary.

## FEES

The program incurs a fee of \$1,400 per student, which the school will cover. This fee encompasses program-related expenses such as equipment and activities and will be billed to the student's enrolled school. Families are responsible for transportation expenses to and from train stations, as well as providing lunches for the student (excluding camp meals, which are covered by the program fee).



## CAMPS

There are 2 camps as part of this program:

- Blackwood Camp – 2-night/ 3-day
- Eumerella Camp – 2 night/ 3-day

These camps provide an opportunity for students to build stronger relationships with their peers and the program facilitators as well as learning about the group dynamics and the different leadership roles they may adapt throughout the program. It is also an important opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with the goals they have chosen and to start working towards achieving those goals. Both camps are integral to program outcomes.

## EQUIPMENT

Students will be given an equipment list on the first day of the program. All specialist equipment will be provided by ONW. It will be the student's responsibility to take care of their allocated equipment. Most outdoor equipment is quite expensive to purchase, so we ask you to please look after our gear. If any equipment is lost or damaged due to improper use or care, you will be asked to replace that item at your expense.

## SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE COMMITMENTS

The success of students in the Operation Newstart Western (ONW) program is reliant on a holistic team approach. It is integral that ONW program facilitators and base school staff work together to support the student taking part in the program. School representatives must commit to:

- Attending interviews with a parent/carer representative with the student
- Being available for school visits by our staff during the program
- Ensuring that attendance is recorded as per normal school processes for students on the days they will be on program.
- Communicating with teachers to modify work expectations for completing work in the two days a week they will be at school
- Attending our family challenge day where possible
- Attending the graduation day or sending a relevant school representative

- Providing regular updates on attendance and behaviour at school
- Providing an update 6 months and 12 months post program

## **FAMILY COMMITMENTS**

We know that families who positively support their young person during the program assist with successful outcomes. Such support takes many forms and will be discussed further in the interview and family sessions. Whilst each student will need to demonstrate commitment to the program, so do their families. There are a number of sessions that families must commit to attending as part of the Newstart program. These include:

- Interview: with student, family member & school staff member (1 hr)
- Parent & Student Information Day at Travancore School (2 hrs)
- Family Evening & Information Session (2 hrs)
- Family Challenge Day at Blackwood (5 hrs)
- Graduation Ceremony at Kensington Town Hall (2 hrs)

*Refer to commitment schedule on page 8 for more details.*

## **CONSENT, MEDICAL AND EVALUATION FORMS**

Once students have been selected for the program, parent/carers and students will be asked to fill out a number of forms including consent and medical forms before commencement of the program. A variety of forms and surveys will be given to students, parents/carers and school staff in order to assist us in measuring outcomes for students.

## **SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION & GRADUATION**

A Graduation Ceremony will be held at the conclusion of the program to celebrate the achievements of students who successfully complete the 7-week program. Families and School staff are invited to attend this celebration. Details regarding the Graduation will be communicated to families and schools.

Students who meet the requirements of the program rubric will receive a Graduation certificate and students who do not meet the requirements will receive a Participation certificate. The program rubric takes into account the students; participation, engagement, attendance & goal progress.

## **TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL**

A major objective of the ONW program is to improve the student's engagement with their education. To assist with this process, ONW staff will visit the student's school to work with both the student and staff to identify strengths, areas of concern and support strategies, as well as creating a personalised profile to assist schools in developing an Individualised Education Plan (IEP). At the conclusion of the program ONW staff will write an education report for each student, and conduct a transition meeting, focusing on transferring the terms learning to the school context.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students participating in the program are expected to act in a manner conducive to the wellbeing of property, other people and the natural environment. Students & parents/carers will be guided through the expectation agreement, which will need to be accepted and signed before the commencement of program.

As a school, we are committed to ensuring the well-being of all students and strive to create a safe and secure learning environment. This duty of care extends to the Operation Newstart program, reinforcing our dedication to the overall safety and support of each participant. While we recognise the importance of the development of the individual, the success of the program relies significantly on developing a strong supportive team.

In line with our commitment to the well-being of all students and the provision of a safe learning environment, we outline the following expectations:

1. **Commit to Attendance:** Attend the Operation Newstart Western program on Wednesdays to Fridays, and your enrolled school on Mondays and Tuesdays, unless otherwise specified.
2. **Be On Time:** Arrive on time and communicate promptly if you are running late.
3. **Engage Fully:** Participate to the best of one's ability in all activities.
4. **Keep Us Informed:** Communicate promptly if you will be away. Provide a medical certificate for any absences.
5. **Make Up for Absences:** If you are absent from the program due to external suspensions, or being absent without a medical certificate you must attend a day at your enrolled school to make up for the missed program days before returning.
6. **Ensure Safety:** Behave responsibly and safely, including during travel to and from the program.
7. **Respect Others:** Support the rights and well-being of others.
8. **Respect Facilitator Guidance:** Listen to and follow the instructions and guidance provided by facilitators and specialised instructors.
9. **Use Respectful Language:** Speak respectfully and avoid using coarse language.
10. **Maintain Equipment and Environment:** Respect and take care of equipment, personal belongings, and the environment.
11. **Secure Your Phone:** Turn in your phone for secure storage for the day or camp.
12. **Turn in Prohibited Items:** Hand over any prohibited items at the beginning of each day.
13. **Substance-Free Commitment:** Refrain from the possession and consumption of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or vapes.

## SAMPLE PROGRAM CALENDAR

TERM 4 2024		School	Holidays	Newstart	Camp
Month	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Oct 2024	30	1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21 Parent Carer Info Session	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31	1
Nov 2024	4	5 Melbourne Cup	6	7	8 Family Challenge Day
	11 Blackwood Camp ▲	12 Blackwood Camp	13 Blackwood Camp	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26 Coastal Camp	27 Coastal Camp	28 Coastal Camp	29
	2	3	4	5	6 Graduation
Dec 2024	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20