

Innovative ideas to support mentors

- Offer monthly group mentor meetings so mentors can debrief with staff and one another.
- Lots of mentors love to receive birthday and/or Christmas cards to show that they are remembered and valued. However if you decide to do this make sure you have the time and are consistent in your approach so that individuals are not left out.
- Host mentor 'coffee clubs' as a less formal way of debriefing and supervising.
- Send regular mentor e-bulletins that celebrate match milestones.
- Distribute a regular newsletter that gives tips or reminders about how to have a successful mentoring relationship.
- Profile different mentors in your program newsletter.
- Invite mentors to training and events hosted by your organisation. This will give mentors the opportunity to develop new skills, meet new people and feel connected to the organisation as a whole.
- Where possible share a meal at mentor group meetings.
- Make sure you have good food at mentor training sessions - this is always appreciated by participants!
- Organise one-on-one catch ups with mentors over coffee.
- Host an end of year Christmas dinner.
- Personalise the positive feedback that you give to individual mentors and incorporate any feedback you have received from their mentees.
- Invite experienced mentors to assist with mentor training as a way of recognising their skills and experience.
- Offer movie vouchers or other freebies where possible.
- Give a small appreciation gift to all mentors at a program celebration event.
- Give match 'anniversary' certificates to celebrate.
- Give awards for outstanding contribution, longest match or highest number of volunteer hours.
- Invite the CEO of your organisation to mentor recognition events to highlight the importance of volunteer mentors.
- Regularly provide new ideas for low or no cost match activities.
- Acknowledge mentor contributions during National Volunteer Week or Youth Mentoring Week.
- Provide opportunities for mentors to speak about their experience at external events.