

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION BOOKLET

(To be completed prior to the interview and brought to the interview)

<p><u>Name of Volunteer</u></p> <p><u>Date of Interview</u></p> <p><u>Interviewer</u></p>
--

INTRODUCTION

This interview should help to:

- **Clarify mentor role and commitment**
- **Identify special strengths and skills you have to offer**

Information will be kept strictly confidential.

Complete the information in your own time and bring to the interview with you.

SECTION ONE - PERSONAL MOTIVATION

1. Why do you want to be a KIDS HOPE AUS mentor?

Tick any of these which apply to you. You may expand on them if you can.

- Through your own life experiences, you feel you could offer support to a troubled child
- You feel concerned about abused children
- You are considering a career in the Human Services / Welfare field
- You would like to experience the satisfaction of helping another
- You want to alter the direction of your life and give it new meaning
- You would like to feel useful, needed and appreciated
- You have spare time on your hands
- You have positive parenting skills which could be shared with a young person
- You enjoy the company of younger people
- You would like to involve others in your hobbies and interests
- You would like the opportunity to learn and practice new skills
- Please add any others:

2. What do you expect to gain from this program? What do you expect to give?

SECTION TWO - FAMILY BACKGROUND

3. How would you describe your family background - when you were growing up?

4. Enjoyable Childhood Experiences

Many people remember some enjoyable events with family members during their childhood.

Tick any of the following that apply to you.

- Birthday
- Family holidays
- Activities with parents
- Activities with other family members/friends
- Games with siblings
- Learning a new skill with a family member
- Bedtime stories /songs
- Parents attending school functions
- Parents involved in recreational clubs
- Family picnics
- Comfort after failure at something
- Making something with family members eg models
- Special talks with family members /carers
- Special time with grandparents
- Games with siblings
- Affection for parents/carers (hugs, cuddles)
- Going on an outing with family and friends
- Other

5. Distressing Childhood Experiences

Most people also remember one or more experiences which were distressing in some way. Describe yourself at primary school age 7-10. Was there anything during those years that you recall as being difficult for you?

Tick any of the following that you have experienced.

- Arguments between parents
- Parents separation/divorce
- Being separated from siblings
- Being lost
- Victim/witness of accident

- Death of family member
- Physical abuse by parent/other person
- Sexual abuse by parent/other person
- Natural disaster -eg flood, fire
- Political disaster eg war
- Illness of parent or other relative
- New partner of parent, new siblings
- Being left alone at home
- Unhappy school experiences
- Being left with strangers
- Moving or migrating
- Severe illness
- Any other

6. What were you afraid of as a child?

7. What made you most happy?

8. Assess your childhood as a whole and mark on the line below the most appropriate spot on the scale.

Very Unhappy

Very Happy

9. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

10. As a KIDS HOPE AUS volunteer, you will be a special person in the life of a child. That child may remember your love for the rest of his/her life. As a child, did you have a special adult in your life? What do you recall of that relationship?

11. On a scale of 1 (Low) to 10 (High), how would you assess your reading skills?

SECTION THREE - FAMILY LIFESTYLE

12. What commitments/ responsibilities do you have on a weekly basis?

13. How much recreation time would you have on a weekly basis?

14. What community resources/facilities are used by family members?

15. Do you or your family have any health problems that could affect your interaction with a young person?

16. Have you spoken to your family about your involvement with this program? What is their comfort level with your involvement?

SECTION FOUR - COPING STRATEGIES

17. What is the most difficult thing you have ever had to handle in your life?

18. How did you manage to handle it?

19. What did you learn from it?

20. What causes stress for you at the moment?

21. How do you recognise stress in others?

22. How do you become aware of excessive stress in yourself?

23. Most people rely on others in times of crisis for support with personal problems. Assess the level of support you receive from others by writing either *None*, *Some* or *A Lot* in the spaces below.

- Family _____
- Friends _____
- Relatives _____
- Clubs/Groups _____
- Church _____
- Other _____

24. Most people develop ways of helping themselves cope with stress.

Tick those strategies that apply to you and add any of your own.

- Taking time out
- Physical activity
- Relaxing with friends/family
- Hobbies/Interests
- Listening to music
- Reading
- Treating yourself to something special
- Massage
- Going shopping
- Other

25. It is very human to feel a range of emotions including frustration, disappointment, and even anger, while working with children who have experienced little success in school. How will you express those feelings?

26. Children sometimes challenge us by trying to control a situation, by inattentiveness, or in some other manner. How will you handle situations like this?

27. If you encounter a situation that you cannot resolve or control, how do you respond?

28. As a KIDS HOPE Coordinator, I want KIDS HOPE to be one of your most meaningful experiences. How will I be able to help you?

SECTION FIVE – PERSONALITY & MOTIVATIONAL STYLE

29. What three words would you use to describe your personality?

30. What is the best way to motivate you?

SECTION SIX – CHRISTIAN FAITH

As Christians we know that our journey has highs and lows, plateaus, challenges and joys. Understanding where volunteers are at will help the KIDS HOPE AUS coordinator support them.

31. Would you share a little about your Christian walk?

SECTION SEVEN – INVOLVEMENT WITH CHILDREN

32. You may be dealing with children from different racial, economic, social or religious backgrounds. What has been your experience with these backgrounds?

33. Have you worked with primary school age children? Tell me about your experience.

34. What did you like/dislike about the experience?

35. Do you have any concerns about working with this age group? Do you have an age preference?

36. You have probably heard the term ‘at-risk child’. What does that mean to you?

37. What concerns do you have regarding mentoring a child considered ‘at risk’?

38. What do you understand as ‘appropriate boundaries’ when working with children?

39. Are there any questions you have for me regarding your involvement in this program?

Please supply names and phone numbers of two referees – one may be your minister.

- 1.
- 2.

Thank you for completing this booklet!