



October 6 2008 Media Release

Donna follows her dreams thanks to the Doxa Cadetship Program

Donna Bowen, ex Swan Hill College student has a message for VCE students at her old school. "If you're dreaming of going to University next year, the Doxa Cadetship Program may be able to help.

"I always wanted to go to University but I knew that the cost would make it tough." Donna said.

That was before Donna found out that she had been accepted into the Doxa Cadetship Program.

The Doxa Cadetship Program, established in 1992 has provided opportunities for hundreds of disadvantaged young people who, although eligible for a university place, are disadvantaged to the extent that they would find it extremely difficult to take up their university offer.

"Cadets are sponsored by corporate organisations where they undertake eight weeks' unpaid work experience per annum for the duration of the cadet's degree course." Kirsten Bickendorf, Program Manager said.

"As well as this invaluable experience, sponsors also provide \$6,000 per year per cadet to assist with living expenses and a mentor who oversees and facilitates the cadet's development within the company."

"In addition, Doxa provides the cadets an allowance for books and provides them with a suit for their work placements. Cadets also receive personal and professional development training, tutoring and professional counselling if required. They graduate from the program not only with their degree but with improved self esteem, communication and negotiation skills and a great network of supporters and peers." Kirsten added.

"It changes their life completely."

"This is an amazing program. It helps me to keep a perspective on why I am at university and it has allowed me to connect with the corporate world," Donna said.

"Applications close on October 27 and they need to be filled in by teachers as well as the student so students should contact Doxa or go to their web site as soon as possible." Donna explained.

Application Forms are available on Doxa Youth Foundation's web site:
<http://www.doxa.org.au/programs/cadetship> or by ringing Doxa on 9328 8046.

Donna is available for interviews. For this or any further information contact Noelene Gratton on 0407 349 036