



October 6 2008 Media Release

Paige Mason, ex Box Forest Secondary 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 for me it was never a realistic option." Paige said

That was before Paige 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 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."

"The program as a whole has been really valuable to me. The work experience is exceptional. I would never have got this experience without Doxa". Paige said.

"The personal and professional training aspect is an important part of the program. It has helped me build my confidence and get a better understanding of the business world."

"But most importantly – it has allowed me to maintain my studies and get the experience that I need."

"Applications close on October 27 and they need to be completed by teachers as well as the student so students should contact Doxa or go to their website as soon as possible." Paige explained. "I absolutely recommend the Doxa Cadetship Program. It is a life changing experience."

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.

ENDS

Paige is available for interviews. For this or any further information contact
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