

NURTURING PURPOSE-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP: MENZIES EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM 2023

In a chaotic and uncertain world, it's easy for us young people to feel adrift, unsure of what we are meant to do, and what we should be working towards.

As a participant in the 2023 Menzies Emerging Leaders program, I can attest to the transformative impact that clarity of purpose has in guiding both effective and ethical leadership. A select group of "Magic 11" participants, including myself, had the privilege of coming together at an online workshop across 1.5 days to engage more deeply with ethics, reflect on leadership, and explore how we can contribute to the greater good.

THE POWER OF PURPOSE

Having a clear sense of purpose is not just a philosophical concept; it has tangible benefits for individuals and society as a whole. Studies have consistently shown that people with a clear sense of purpose lead happier and more fulfilling lives. They experience lower levels of depression, anxiety, and stress, and are generally healthier both mentally and physically.

Purpose also acts as a motivator, driving individuals to pursue their dreams with unwavering determination. Purpose-driven leaders are focused, resilient, and adaptable, qualities that make them visionaries capable of inspiring others to follow their lead.

Despite the profound benefits of purpose-driven leadership, societal pressures and the desire to fit in can sometimes make us question our values, especially when the easier path seems to be one of compromise.

However, the program encourages participants to reflect on what truly matters, seek support from like-minded peers and mentors, and find the courage to make choices aligned with their values, even when it's tough. In doing so, we learn that values are like our inner compass, guiding us toward happiness, fulfillment, and authenticity.

THE ESSENCE OF "VOICE"

As I reflect on my experiences in the Menzies Emerging Leaders Program, one question stands out: What does the 2023 theme of "Voice" actually mean to young people?

Voice represents more than just the sound we produce when we speak; it is the essence of our existence and the core of our leadership journey. When we lead with purpose, our voices become instruments of inspiration, resonating with others and motivating them to join our cause. To me, "voice" is the heartbeat of change. It is the instrument of progress, the refusal to remain silent in the face of injustice. "Voice" is the duty to the unheard, a story embodying authenticity, vulnerability, and human connection. With our voices, we empower others to speak for causes greater than themselves. "Voice" is a vision of a better tomorrow.

- Anjali Beames, Year 12