



WHAT WE DO WORKS



We know that increasing young men's resilience improves their overall wellbeing and their ability to grow and get through the tougher times in life. We also know that it improves relationships - with their family, with their partner, and with their classmates or work colleagues.

We know that the work we do in helping young guys then has a ripple effect on the community; it contributes to reducing crime, family violence, anti-social behaviour, isolation - even suicide. It has never been more important to increase the resilience of our young people. This report shows that that's what we're delivering on, time and time again.

Every six months, we survey teachers, principals, parents, and young guys (over 18) on the impact our programs have had on everyone involved, whether directly or indirectly.

We assess impacts on a five-point scale from very negative to very positive across sixteen personal and social impact areas, as well as asking them about their general satisfaction with the program and whether they would recommend it to others.

Where respondents have included qualitative feedback or general comments, we have included that as well.

This report includes highlights of the responses, as well as the summarised data tables further down. We will continue to publish this report on a six-monthly basis.

BEN GATHERCOLE. MENSLINK CEO



PREFACE

In 2018 the University of Canberra evaluated the Menslink program impacts, and two things were obvious:

- Menslink cares about meeting the needs of young men.
- Menslink is a learning organisation and wants to learn about our program impacts so we can keep improving.

We like to keep our fingers on the pulse.

Our Menslink team was openly engaged in examining the pros and cons of our existing surveys and then co-developed new, improved short-term and follow-up client impact surveys with the University of Canberra; to better align with Menslink's values, goals and reporting needs.

The latest 6-monthly impact survey results are now available in this report. They give insight and testament to our highly valued services, which are more vital than ever with the heightened stresses that young men face. The statistics reveal substantial benefits for young guys during challenging periods of their lives. The quotes give insight into the real and varied nature of the individual impacts.



Survey Development supported by:

DR. JAMES NEILL
Assistant Professor
Centre for Applied Psychology
Faculty of Health
University of Canberra



COUNSELLING



FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS, SCHOOLS AND YOUNG MEN



91% of respondents reported a positive or very positive impact on their relationship with their peers and school staff.



81% of respondents reported a very positive impact on their confidence and self-esteem.



74% of respondents reported a very positive impact on managing their stress and anxiety.



In the overall program rating average, satisfaction with the program scored 8.0 out of ten.



I found Menslink to be an engaging and easy to attend service. My councillor was friendly, knowledgeable and made my personal life a lot easier to navigate.

YOUNG GUY



COUNSELLING QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK



Person	Comment
Parent	Menslink are an extremely professional organisation who undertake amazing outreach programs for young men. My sons have both attended menslink and it has helped them immensly to understand that they can reach out for support, that there are men and communities who accept them as they are and who are willing to help them find a better future and better ways of living. Thanks so much to the Menslink counsellors and team for their professionalism and kindness.
Parent	The counselling support that my son has received from Menslink has been invaluable and has helped him (and his family) navigate some big life issues. He says that he is better able to deal with his emotions, anxiety and relationships due to the skills gained through his counselling sessions. As a parent, knowing that my son can talk to another adult in this manner provides peace of mind and we are immensely grateful to Menslink. Menslink provides counselling services that are integral to the Canberra community.
Parent	A heartfelt thanks from this parent who now has a child happy to be attending school and who has managed some very difficult situations using the skills he learned from his counselling sessions. It is so important we have this help available and I will be forever grateful we got this result.
Parent	Our son has had various styles of counselling ranging from at school to private. Nothing has really clicked for him, until he went to Menslink. All the staff are friendly, enthusiastic and encouraging. The counsellor my son is seeing, in one simple word is - AMAZING. My son felt at ease from the initial meeting. They connected within the first few minutes which meant my son was comfortable with unloading what had been happening for him. Rolf is like a friend, without actually being a friend. They chat about all manner of topics. The Counsellor then uses those topics as analogies to help our son understand why he was feeling the way he was and how it was affecting him physically. Our son walked out of his first session feeling immense relief, he said he felt "normal " and that a huge weight had been lifted off his shoulders. He now leaves each session with a big smile. We cannot thank Menslink enough for the help they are providing. If every child who needs help could be so lucky to receive it from Menslink, then the world would be a much better place.
Young Guy	I found Menslink to be an engaging and easy to attend service. My counsellor was friendly, knowledgeable and made my personal life a lot easier to navigate. I would highly recommend Menslink and encourage anyone to seek support suffering mental health issues, whether it be family problems, peer-related, anxiety or depression. This service tailors to a range of issues that can help you relieve some stress, communicate to like-minded individuals and allow you to vent when you need it. I would gladly re-visit the service in the future if I ever come across difficult life situations that I cannot deal with alone. Thank you.

MENSLINK.ORG.AL

MENTORING



FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS AND GUARDIANS



93% of respondents reported positive or very positive impacts on their sons' confidence and self-esteem.



83% of respondents reported a positive impact on their sons' confidence and self-esteem.



75% of respondents reported positive or very positive impacts on their sons' willingness to support others.



89% of respondents reported a positive impact on their sons' mental health and wellbeing.



It has been a joy to see my son become more social, confident and a more responsible, thoughtful, considerate young man.

PARENT/GUARDIAN



MENTORING IMPACT SURVEY QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

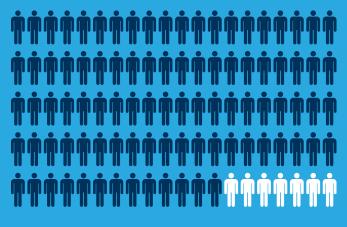


Person	Comment
Parent	Menslink has been a very big help for my son while going through some pretty tough times at home. The one-on-one and group activities gives him the freedom to have someone else, especially a male, to go to if he ever has anything he needs to talk about that he doesn't want to talk to me about. Having that male role model in his life has been really great.
Parent	I have been fortunate enough to have two sons experience the Menslink mentor program. It has been an amazing opportunity for them to have a male role model share their time with them. The activities have been a great resource for both Mentors and Mentees. It is a valuable service and a much needed one. The commitment by all involved is making a genuine difference to our young men. As a mother I value the entire concept behind the Menslink cause. I can say from personal experience that it benefits all involved. I would love to see it reach more communities throughout Australia. Thankyou to the entire Menslink family for everything you do.
Parent	Menslink mentoring program gives my child a safe, friendly and supportive connection, a role model that is there to help my child while faced with challenging times.
Parent	The activities organised by Menslink are well arranged and the mentor and the staff at the Menslink are amazing. From daily life skills (cooking and budgeting) to wilderness survival techniques; from setting a rhythmic life pace (work-life balance) to the passion in engagements. All activities and the actions the adults demonstrated how to align responsibility with passion. The relationship between my son and his mentor is healthy, supportive, inspirational to my son and myself in how to handle situations (I need some of the male's relaxing attitudes in dealing with occasions). Thanks a lot for the reminder in how not to react with anxiety (not from his words but from his deeds). Many thanks to my son's mentor, for being himself, which is an amazing collection of personalities and abilities. And many thanks to the staff who demonstrated responsibility, voluntary contributions to society, and how to make decisions in complex settings.
Parent	Menslink is absolutely fantastic. My son really enjoys going out and gets along great with his Mentor. They catch up regularly, doing things together, and he has made a huge impact on my son's attitude – he's making better choices in and out of school, he's doing extra-curricular activities at school, and he has improved in school studies and getting better grades.

SCHOOLS



— SILENCE



93%

93% of respondents reported positive and very positive impacts on their students' ability to manage stress and anxiety.

91%

91% of respondents reported positive and very positive impacts on their students' willingness to support others.

66

To see the boys at school engaging with the real life stories from the Menslink presenters, and then opening up and sharing their own doubts and worries in front of their peers is inspiring.

HIGH SCHOOL



SILENCE IS DEADLY IMPACT SURVEY QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK



Person	Comment
High School	After having Menslink present multiple sessions with our boys, we noticed a higher rate of them asking for help during class time or coming to our wellbeing hub to report issues/talk about their struggles. Thank you Menslink.
High School	Menslink Silence is Deadly in my opinion really succeeds in both message and delivery. Key messaging on the importance of recognising when to and knowing how to ask for help, but also knowing how to help someone else was outlined very well. The presentation was age appropriate, concise and engaging.
High School	To see the boys at school engaging with the real life stories from the Menslink presenters, and then opening up and sharing their own doubts and worries in front of their peers is inspiring.
Primary School	The Silence Is Deadly program was perfect for our year 5/6 students. The presenters were great, and our students were so engaged.
Primary School	It was an excellent presentation and the students were thoroughly engaged. Thank you for the work you are doing and the message that you are sharing.
High School	The Menslink program was a very educational experience for my students. The program was done in a respectful manner and the students were really engaged.

SCHOOLS







100% of respondents reported positive or very positive impacts on their students' relationships with their peers.



100% of respondents reported positive or very positive impacts on taking responsibility for their actions.



86% of respondents reported positive or very positive impacts on managing and controlling their anger and aggression.



Pride offers young fellas the opportunity to identify who they want to be, and how they can recognise the first steps to being the best version of that. For the young fellas who really engage, it can be life changing.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER



The overall average rating for satisfaction with the program scored 10 out of 10.

"

PRIDE IMPACT SURVEY QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK



Person	Comment
High School	Pride offers young fellas the opportunity to identify who they want to be, and how they can recognise the first steps to being the best version of that. For the young fellas who really engage, it can be life changing.
Primary School	I think the students were surprised by how similar they were with their issues going on inside them, and were shocked that other boys/men and adults have been through and go through similar things. I think it also opened them up to difficult conversations and they felt comfortable to share in the space. The activities were all engaging and the students understood and participated.



COUNSELLING IMPACT SURVEY (PARENTS AND YOUNG MEN AGED 10-25)



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Relationships with peers	0%	0%	22%	48%	22%	9%
Relationships with family	0%	0%	26%	43%	30%	0%
Relationships with partner	0%	0%	17%	13%	9%	61%
Relationships with school staff	0%	0%	30%	35%	13%	22%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	0%	22%	35%	4%	39%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	17%	43%	26%	13%

Personal Impacts									
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	0%	13%	43%	39%	4%			
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	17%	52%	22%	9%			
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	22%	48%	26%	4%			
Cope with adversity	0%	0%	26%	22%	39%	13%			
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	0%	9%	43%	48%	0%			
Feelings of hopelessness (if any)	0%	0%	9%	52%	26%	13%			
Taking responsibility for actions	0%	0%	22%	35%	30%	13%			
Willingness to seek support	0%	0%	17%	30%	43%	9%			
Addictive behaviours	0%	4%	35%	13%	13%	35%			
Outlook on their future	0%	0%	9%	48%	39%	4%			

Overall Program Rating Average			
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	8		
Net Promoter Score	79		

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

COUNSELLING PARENTS SURVEY (ALL AGES)



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Relationships with peers	0%	0%	25%	50%	19%	6%
Relationships with family	0%	0%	25%	44%	31%	0%
Relationships with partner	0%	0%	13%	6%	0%	81%
Relationships with school staff	0%	0%	25%	44%	13%	19%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	0%	19%	31%	0%	50%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	25%	38%	25%	13%

Personal Impacts						
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	0%	19%	44%	38%	0%
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	19%	56%	19%	6%
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	31%	44%	25%	0%
Cope with adversity	0%	0%	31%	25%	38%	6%
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	0%	13%	38%	50%	0%
Feelings of hopelessness (if any)	0%	0%	13%	44%	25%	19%
Taking responsibility for actions	0%	0%	25%	44%	19%	13%
Willingness to seek support	0%	0%	19%	25%	44%	13%
Addictive behaviours	0%	0%	31%	13%	13%	44%
Outlook on their future	0%	0%	13%	50%	31%	6%

Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	8
Net Promoter Score	57

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

COUNSELLING IMPACT SURVEY (AGES 18 - 25 YEARS OLD)



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Relationships with peers	0%	0%	14%	43%	29%	14%
Relationships with family	0%	0%	29%	43%	29%	0%
Relationships with partner	0%	0%	29%	29%	29%	14%
Relationships with school staff	0%	0%	43%	14%	14%	29%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	0%	29%	43%	14%	14%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	0%	57%	29%	14%

Personal Impacts								
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	0%	0%	43%	43%	14%		
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	14%	43%	29%	14%		
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	0%	57%	29%	14%		
Cope with adversity	0%	0%	14%	14%	43%	29%		
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	0%	0%	57%	43%	0%		
Feelings of hopelessness (if any)	0%	0%	0%	71%	29%	0%		
Taking responsibility for actions	0%	0%	14%	14%	57%	14%		
Willingness to seek support	0%	0%	14%	43%	43%	0%		
Addictive behaviours	0%	14%	43%	14%	14%	14%		
Outlook on their future	0%	0%	0%	43%	57%	0%		

Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	10
Net Promoter Score	100

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

MENTORING IMPACT SURVEY (ALL PHASES - FEEDBACK FROM PARENT OR GUARDIAN)



0%

30%

7%

7%

15%

7%

January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Engagement in class	0%	0%	33%	44%	19%	4%
Relationships with peers	0%	4%	22%	48%	22%	4%
Relationships with family	0%	7%	11%	41%	33%	7%
Relationships with school/workplace staff	0%	0%	30%	41%	22%	7%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	4%	15%	37%	15%	30%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	26%	41%	30%	4%
Personal Impacts						
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	4%	4%	56%	37%	0%
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	26%	33%	33%	7%
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	15%	48%	30%	7%
Cope with adversity	0%	4%	19%	37%	26%	15%

11%

7%

26%

19%

44%

22%

0%

4%

4%

4%

4%

5 US 5 US	
Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	8
Net Promoter Score	75

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

SAMPLE SIZE: 27

48%

30%

15%

26%

4%

41%

41%

30%

48%

44%

33%

26%

Mental health and wellbeing

Willingness to seek support

Addictive behaviours

Outlook on their future

Feelings of hopelessness (if any)

Taking responsibility for actions

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

MENTORING IMPACT SURVEY (6 MONTHS - FEEDBACK FROM PARENT OR GUARDIAN)



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Engagement in class	0%	0%	75%	25%	0%	0%
Relationships with peers	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Relationships with family	0%	0%	50%	25%	0%	25%
Relationships with school/workplace staff	0%	0%	75%	25%	0%	0%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	0%	25%	0%	0%	75%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	75%	25%	0%	0%

Personal Impacts						
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	50%	25%	0%	25%
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	25%	75%	0%	0%
Cope with adversity	0%	0%	50%	25%	0%	25%
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	7%	25%	50%	25%	0%
Feelings of hopelessness (if any)	0%	7%	25%	25%	0%	50%
Taking responsibility for actions	0%	0%	50%	25%	0%	25%
Willingness to seek support	0%	0%	25%	75%	0%	0%
Addictive behaviours	0%	13%	75%	0%	0%	25%
Outlook on their future	0%	7%	25%	50%	0%	25%

Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	9
Net Promoter Score	75

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

MENTORING IMPACT SURVEY (12 MONTHS - FEEDBACK FROM PARENT OR GUARDIAN)



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Engagement in class	0%	0%	25%	33%	33%	8%
Relationships with peers	0%	0%	25%	33%	33%	8%
Relationships with family	0%	8%	0%	50%	33%	8%
Relationships with school/workplace staff	0%	0%	25%	25%	33%	17%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	0%	17%	25%	25%	33%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	17%	33%	42%	8%

Personal Impacts						
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	0%	0%	58%	42%	0%
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	25%	33%	33%	8%
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	8%	42%	33%	17%
Cope with adversity	0%	0%	17%	33%	25%	25%
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%
Feelings of hopelessness (if any)	0%	0%	0%	33%	25%	42%
Taking responsibility for actions	0%	0%	25%	42%	25%	8%
Willingness to seek support	0%	0%	25%	17%	42%	17%
Addictive behaviours	0%	0%	50%	33%	8%	8%
Outlook on their future	0%	0%	33%	25%	33%	8%

Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	10
Net Promoter Score	75

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

MENTORING IMPACT SURVEY (18 MONTHS - FEEDBACK FROM PARENT OR GUARDIAN)



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Engagement in class	0%	0%	22%	67%	11%	0%
Relationships with peers	20%	11%	0%	67%	22%	0%
Relationships with family	0%	11%	0%	44%	44%	0%
Relationships with school staff	0%	0%	11%	67%	22%	0%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	11%	0%	78%	11%	0%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	11%	67%	22%	0%

Personal Impacts						
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	11%	0%	44%	44%	0%
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	11%	44%	44%	0%
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	11%	56%	33%	0%
Cope with adversity	0%	11%	0%	56%	33%	0%
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	0%	11%	33%	56%	0%
Feelings of hopelessness (if any)	0%	11%	0%	33%	44%	11%
Taking responsibility for actions	0%	11%	11%	78%	0%	0%
Willingness to seek support	0%	11%	0%	67%	22%	0%
Addictive behaviours	0%	11%	22%	44%	0%	22%
Outlook on their future	0%	11%	0%	22%	67%	0%

Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	9
Net Promoter Score	100

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

MENTORING IMPACT SURVEY (24 MONTHS - FEEDBACK FROM PARENT OR GUARDIAN)



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Engagement in class	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Relationships with peers	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Relationships with family	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
Relationships with school staff	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%

Personal Impacts						
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
Cope with adversity	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
Feelings of hopelessness (if any)	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
Taking responsibility for actions	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%
Willingness to seek support	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Addictive behaviours	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Outlook on their future	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%

Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	8
Net Promoter Score	50

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

SILENCE IS DEADLY IMPACT SURVEY



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	7%	67%	15%	11%
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	4%	65%	24%	7%
Cope with adversity	0%	0%	11%	59%	24%	7%
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	0%	4%	52%	37%	7%
Willingness to seek support	0%	0%	2%	30%	63%	4%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	4%	46%	46%	4%

Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	9
Net Promoter Score	71

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%

PRIDE IMPACT SURVEY



January - June 2023	Very Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Very Positive Impact	Unsure or n/a
Social Impacts						
Engagement in class	0%	0%	29%	29%	43%	0%
Relationships with peers	0%	0%	0%	57%	43%	0%
Relationships with staff	0%	0%	0%	57%	43%	0%
Anti-social behaviours	0%	0%	14%	57%	29%	0%
Attitude toward women	0%	0%	14%	43%	43%	0%
Willingness to support others	0%	0%	0%	43%	57%	0%

Personal Impacts						
Confidence & self-esteem	0%	0%	0%	29%	57%	14%
Manage and control anger & aggression	0%	0%	0%	43%	43%	14%
Manage stress & anxiety	0%	0%	14%	29%	43%	14%
Cope with adversity	0%	0%	0%	29%	57%	14%
Mental health and wellbeing	0%	0%	0%	29%	57%	14%
Feelings of hopelessness	0%	0%	0%	29%	57%	14%
Taking responsibility for actions	0%	0%	0%	43%	57%	0%
Willingness to seek support	0%	0%	0%	43%	57%	0%
Addictive behaviours	0%	0%	14%	43%	29%	14%
Outlook on their future	0%	0%	0%	29%	71%	0%

Overall Program Rating Average	
Satisfaction with the program (out of 10)	10
Net Promoter Score	100

^{*} Due to whole-number rounding, percentages against an individual impact may not add up to exactly 100%