PEER SUPPORT LEADERS 2023

ROLE DESCRIPTION AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

St Paul’s College, founded upon the Christian faith in the Anglican tradition, is committed to offering the highest standard of collegiate life with opportunities for students from all faiths or none to lead and to serve others including through the Peer Support Programme. The Programme is designed to provide valuable mentoring to Freshmen as they make their transition from school to university and become the very best they can as the next generation of Paulines. Peer Support Leaders, along with Junior Deans and members of the Students’ Club Committee, are instrumental in setting the tone of the College.

2023 is an exciting and historic year for St Paul’s as the College welcomes undergraduate women into our community. The Warden invites applications from women interested in joining our Peer Support Leadership team (PSL). This team will have a considerable influence on the shape of our first year of undergraduate co-residency. The role will primarily suit applicants currently in their second or third year in College, although applications from 2022 Freshmen in the second year or above of their degree will be considered. PSLs are not rostered on for any after-hours supervision of the College.

Peer Support Leaders will be discernibly committed to the College’s ongoing cultural renewal. They will play an active role in fostering an ethos where St Paul’s is known as a community in which all members strive to do their best in all endeavours, with humility and showing respect towards all.

Critically, Peer Support Leaders are servant-hearted and have the strength of character to be a confident and clear voice for what is right as well as being advocates for struggling or vulnerable students. This also means having the character and integrity to correct wrongs where they see and know them to exist.

Central to the PSL role is getting to know each Freshman in their group, keeping abreast of each student’s development, study-life, interests, and character. PSLs must be willing to maintain a consistent and active presence around the College, attending a broad cross-section of College events including, but not limited to, Palladian, Rawson, Rosebowl, and of course, regularly dining at Formal Hall and mixing widely at other meals.

We are seeking leaders who can work as part of a team and who are invested in embracing the whole of College life, modelling for the Freshmen what it looks like to live out College life as a Pauline. As such, Peer Support Leaders must have a good academic record and role model how to balance competing commitments, keeping their studies as the central priority.

Together with all other student leaders, PSLs will receive training including a strong focus on ethical leadership and decision-making, respectful relationships, leading diverse and inclusive teams, consent and the prevention of and response to sexual misconduct, bystander interventions, the prevention of hazing and initiations, first aid, responsible consumption of alcohol, and other topics. Peer Support Leaders will also receive training on how to engage empathetically and when to escalate issues to staff members.
In summary, expectations of Peer Support Leaders include but are not limited to:

- acting in a supportive, caring manner.
- upholding the values for which St Paul's College stands, including respect and dignity for all.
- assisting Freshmen with the crucial transition to University and College life, discussing problems of any nature (e.g. academic performance and pressures, sexuality, depression, homesickness, cultural barriers, relationships, family issues, alienation, alcohol or drug consumption) or aiding those who need help dealing with unfortunate events.
- available and approachable to talk to those who need support as and when required. This includes where students have referred friends to Peer Support Leaders out of concern for their welfare. PSLs must be committed to providing a non-judgemental and confidential environment where students can share their issues and seek help but also recognise when to seek help or advice when unsure of how to handle a situation.
- community builders through presence and participation in the broad scope of College life as outlined in this document.
- courageous in taking appropriate action which includes seeking counsel from others who hold special responsibility in the College.
- demonstrating a commitment to upholding a culture of inclusion, respect, and safety in the College.
- available to attend scheduled occasional meetings with relevant staff.

OTHER
The Warden appoints Peer Support Leaders following a panel interview.
Performance reviews occur each semester, focusing on demonstrated commitment to the Programme.

Successful applicants must be available for the following dates.
1) Ongoing leadership training throughout Semester Two 2022.
2) Attending some Formal Dinners and College events where possible.
3) Leadership training and Welcome Week preparation held at College, February 2023 (dates to be advised).
4) Welcome Week February 2023 (dates to be advised).
HOW TO APPLY
Please send a brief resume including your academic transcripts and a cover letter addressing the following points.

1. Why you are interested in this position, outlining what you can distinctively contribute as a Peer Support Leader.
2. Detail some ideas on how you can maintain the momentum and level of engagement with the Freshmen throughout the year.
3. How you would balance your commitments in 2023 if you were a Peer Support Leader. The role requires an active presence around College and you will need to be able to balance this along with your university, work/internship, family, and social/sporting/cultural commitments.
4. Detail any relevant experience or background you may have had in a mentoring/peer support/leadership roles outlining any challenges you faced and what you learned from the experience.

Please include the names and contact details for two referees who know you well but must not be family or close friends. Please check in advance that referees are willing to act as your referee.

Please make your application to the St Paul’s College Warden, The Rev. Dr Ed Loane. Applications close at 5:00pm on Monday, 20 June. Email applications to tj.christie@stpauls.edu.au.