

## Finding a Mentor

### Getting support from someone who's been there before

A mentor is someone who's been where you are now, who's journeyed close to where you want to be, and who's made his or her own mistakes - someone who is willing to impart the wisdom of experience and help you avoid the pitfalls. With this type of advice and guidance you will be that much more likely to reach your career and/or personal goals.

### Why do I need a mentor?

If you have a good mentor, you can:

- Learn from their expertise and experience
- Receive feedback on your performance and abilities
- Learn what it takes to succeed in the creative and cultural industries
- Learn specific skills and knowledge that are required for your success
- Develop a broader networking base
- Have a sounding board to bounce ideas off and vent your frustrations at

If you're fortunate enough to develop a good mentoring relationship, and have a mentor who cares about your success, the impact on your career can be profound. A great mentor may also open up new opportunities, help you find alternate routes when doors close to you, and stand by you when you make mistakes. Finding and developing a mentoring relationship takes time and commitment. But for many people it will be paid back one hundred times over and is well worth the persistence required.

### Who would want to mentor me?

Many people find mentoring gives them a great sense of fulfilment and personal satisfaction. Potential mentors are usually very busy, successful people, but the right mentor for you will find your relationship rewarding and mutually beneficial.

### How do I find a mentor?

You may have access to a friend, relative or business adviser with the experience to mentor you but, if not, contact people you admire that are in the creative and cultural industry - you might be surprised by their response.