



General

- Best Buddies Australia is a new not-for-profit organisation that seeks to harness the power of friendship to transform the lives of people who have an intellectual disability.
- We want to create a community where these people are connected, included, respected and valued; through friendship.
- Best Buddies matches people who have, and those who don't have intellectual disabilities, in one to one friendships. Then the volunteer and their Buddy get involved with everyday activities together, like a trip to the movies or a meal and a chat.
- Founded in 1989 in the USA by Anthony K Shriver, Best Buddies has spread to 40 countries including Great Britain, Germany, Tanzania, Finland, Chile and Australia.
- The framework requires volunteers to commit to a 12 month program, during which time volunteers (we call them Peer Buddies) and those who have an intellectual disability (Buddies) are matched according to age, location, sex and interests.
- Best Buddies focuses on the development of a friendship relationship rather than a mentoring one.

Current Outcomes

- Best Buddies is currently operating in 6 High Schools in Sydney and 2 High Schools in Melbourne. There are more than 70 Buddy Pairs.
- Best Buddies operates a Citizens (Adults) Program in Melbourne with 35 Buddy Pairs.
- Buddy Pairs will contribute more than 5000 hours to community activities during 2008.

Sponsorship and Partners

- At this time, Best Buddies Australia has no major corporate sponsors.
- If 2000 people donated \$5.00 per fortnight, all current programs would be fully funded.
- Best Buddies plans to have a presence in every State and Territory within 5 years.

Transforming lives, making friends, building communities.