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Mr CHRIS SPENCE (The Entrance) [6.59 p.m.]: I rise in the House to commend an outstanding initiative called MaxPotential, a mentoring program for young people aged between 16 and 25 years. A mentor is typically defined as a trusted friend, a counsellor or teacher, or a wise and influential sponsor or supporter. The MaxPotential program exemplifies the very definition of mentor. A personal leadership and coaching program for young people, it is excellent to see a one-on-one intensive program that facilitates accelerated growth in our up-and-coming leaders. A true leader inspires, teaches and nurtures. A true leader understands that success is not measured by a dollar value, a position or title, or by comparison with peers and colleagues.

A true leader recognises individuality, that each person has their individual strengths, weaknesses, skills and abilities. MaxPotential is a program that offers young people a chance to maximise their potential by encouraging individual growth and providing opportunities to get a solid grasp on leadership skills and create an attitude for a life of success. I was honoured to attend the MaxPotential showcase at Tuggerah Westfield on 17 August this year and see firsthand the final results of the 14 students from local schools who went through the program, and congratulate them on graduating from the program.

The innovative community projects undertaken by the students were very impressive. One student raised awareness of emergency call 112, which can be dialled from any phone, anywhere, at any time, and the call will go through to the emergency line, even if a phone is locked or out of range. Another student undertook a project called Surviving Year 7. He returned to his primary school to speak to year 6 students about transitioning to year 7, and gave some helpful advice on bullying. Some other projects were lunchtime cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid lessons, coordinating volunteer groups for community organisations, and running a donation drive for the local opportunity shop. I was inspired by the projects undertaken by the young people. Their capacity to dream big, work hard and achieve their goals is commendable. These young people are the managers, entrepreneurs and community leaders of our future.

The MaxPotential program, as well as the people and organisations behind the program, recognise this, and recognise that nurturing and maximising their potential now creates strong leaders of tomorrow. Working through ClubsNSW, the MaxPotential program is facilitated by local clubs which aim to maximise their engagement with young people in local communities. I acknowledge Mingara, along with over 20 other local clubs statewide, for facilitating and supporting this very worthy program. We as a State Government recognise and support the enormous community contributions made by our local clubs each year, by providing facilities, funds and grants to a long list of community organisations and groups. Mingara, as one of the biggest clubs on the Central Coast, contributes significantly every year to the community in health and special needs organisations, sport and recreation, education and child care, service and other affiliated clubs, and especially our local schools.

The opportunity presented to the 14 students should be commended. MaxPotential offered them a chance to accelerate their potential, outwork a community project and set a foundation of leadership that will launch them forward into a successful life. The end of the MaxPotential program was not a conclusion; rather a platform from which a lifetime of learning can continue. I thank each of the coaches who gave their time and imparted their experience and knowledge as a mentor for these students. To the students who completed the MaxPotential program I offer my sincere congratulations and wish them all the best for a successful future. The projects they undertook and completed were innovative and community focused. I look forward to hearing about their future endeavours.

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Parliamentary Secretary) [7.02 p.m.], in reply: I thank the member for The Entrance for bringing to the attention of the House the great work that MaxPotential is doing in fostering leadership among the young people of the Central Coast. I also endorse his efforts in encouraging leaders. The Central Coast is in desperate need of more young leaders and it is terrific to see such great grassroots programs being supported by the club movement on the Central Coast.