

THE MENTORING MEN

MISSING MENTOR

A RESEARCH QUESTION

Could a trusted male role model be one protective influence against radicalisation?

BUILT WITH PARTNERS

Fund research into pathways in Australia, the role a mentor might play and the preparation safe practice would require.





ILLUSTRATIVE LIFE-WORLD IMAGE

THE OPPORTUNITY

ASK THE HARD QUESTION FIRST

The Missing Mentor starts with how men in Australia may be drawn towards extremist beliefs and groups. Identity, belonging, grievance and online influences may all matter, but pathways differ.

We are seeking support to test whether a sustained connection with a trusted, positive male role model could make a difference - for whom, at what stage and under what conditions. The answer must come from research, not assumption.

PROPOSAL DEVELOPED WITH



THREE QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

01

UNDERSTAND PATHWAYS

Examine Australian experiences of radicalisation and where protective relationships might matter.

02

TEST THE ROLE MODEL

Explore credibility, trust, timing and the kind of connection that could help - or may not.

03

PREPARE SAFELY

Identify recruitment, screening, training, supervision and referral requirements before considering delivery.

WHAT FUNDING WOULD ENABLE

RESEARCH BEFORE PROGRAMME

Your support would fund the Australian evidence review, mentor-role analysis and the guidance needed for safe future decisions.

01**PATHWAYS IN AUSTRALIA**

Synthesize research on radicalisation, identity, belonging, online influence and resilience. Examine where a different relationship could plausibly offer protection.

02**THE ROLE OF A MENTOR**

Review evidence on positive male role models: who may be trusted, when connection could matter, what it might offer and where mentoring may not help.

03**SAFE PREPARATION**

Translate findings into recommendations for mentor recruitment, matching, training, supervision, safeguarding, specialist referrals and evaluation.

**PRACTICAL OUTPUTS**

An evidence synthesis, guidance for mentoring organisations and policymakers, and an economic analysis of radicalisation and related harms would inform future decisions.

FROM QUESTION TO GUIDANCE

A CLEAR SCOPE. ACCOUNTABLE WORK.

We would examine Australian evidence, agree a robust study with research partners, then turn findings into practical guidance.



EVERYDAY CONTEXT / ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE

01

EXAMINE

Bring together Australian pathway evidence, developmental resilience research and existing mentoring interventions. Test the possible role of male mentors.

02

AGREE

Set research questions and methods with the Institute for Economics & Peace and academic partners. Confirm roles, scope and commissioning.

03

APPLY

Produce practical guidance on what MM would need to teach and support mentors to do, and the conditions for any safe future work.

WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN

LET THE FINDINGS CHALLENGE US

We will test where a positive male role model might fit, and identify when other responses are more appropriate.

01

FOR WHOM?

Do pathways and protective factors differ across ages, settings and life circumstances?

02

WHEN?

At what stage might a credible relationship matter, and when might other support be more appropriate?

03

WHAT NEXT?

What preparation and specialist support would any mentoring response require?

THE BOUNDARY IS PART OF THE IDEA

The study must be able to conclude that some approaches do not help, or that more evidence is needed. It would not assume that men without a male role model become radicalised or that mentoring alone can prevent harm. The research may consider ages and settings beyond MM's adult service; any later specialist delivery would need agreed training, safeguarding, supervision and referral pathways.



A PARTNER CONVERSATION

HELP ANSWER THE QUESTION



ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE

Mentoring Men and the Institute for Economics & Peace have developed this research proposal. An academic partner, commissioning arrangements and the final study scope would be confirmed before work starts.

We are seeking funding for the evidence review, Australian research design, practical mentor guidance and an economic analysis of radicalisation and related harms. Those outputs would support decisions on any future practice.

BACK THE RESEARCH

Fund the research into positive male role models, pathways away from radicalisation and the preparation mentors would need.

This research has not shown that mentoring prevents radicalisation. Partner roles, study methods and commissioning would be agreed before work begins.

[TALK TO US ABOUT FUNDING →](#)

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