



## Information Sheet for Young People

### ***What does the program do?***

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides friendship and fun to kids who would like another adult in their life. We believe that no one can ever have too many people who care about them. Some young people also really like the idea of having a grown-up to talk to who is not their parent.

If you were matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister you would get together for a few hours 3 – 4 times a month and do things which you both enjoyed doing. Some ideas might be playing basketball, going to the beach, watching movies, cooking, walking the dog or bike riding. This would go on for at least 12 months.

### ***Who are the Big Brothers / Big Sisters?***

They are volunteers who have agreed that all kids could benefit from having an extra adult in their lives. Because they are volunteers, they don't get paid like a teacher or a doctor. They spend time with you because they think it would be fun, and because they have some free time available.

Not just anyone can become a volunteer. They have to go through a number of interviews, do some tests and even have the police check them out. The most important thing is that they can get along with kids.

### ***Can I get a Big Brother / Big Sister?***

You are eligible for a Big Brother / Big Sister if you are between the ages of 7 and 17, maybe having some trouble making friends at school, getting into fights at home or at school or maybe could just do with that extra boost of confidence by having someone around who is especially for you. It might also be that you're a boy growing up with only your mum around, and having a Big Brother is a way of getting to do things with another male.

### ***When can I get a Big Brother/ Big Sister?***

There isn't really any way of knowing. It might be really soon, like the next few months, or you might have to wait longer than a year. The wait can be long because there are lots of kids and parents who agree that having a Big Brother or Big Sister is a good idea. What we can say is that when you are matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister, that person would have been chosen especially for you, based on what you tell us you like to do and also the type of person each of you are.

### ***How do I get a Big Brother /Big Sister?***

When we have a volunteer who we think you would get along with, we arrange a meeting at your home. Your parent/guardian, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program worker, the volunteer Big Brother/Sister and you would be at the meeting. This would give you a chance to 'check out' the volunteer, and also chat to the program worker about the program. You'd then need to call the program worker the next day to say if you thought it was a good match.

If the match goes ahead we would meet again after three months just to make sure everyone was doing well, and then again when a year was up.

### ***What do the program Workers do?***

To ensure a worthwhile friendship is developing between you and your Big Brother / Big Sister the worker tries to catch-up with everyone regularly. This means talking to you, your parent/guardian and your Big Brother or Big Sister. If there seems to be a problem, the worker will try to help everyone sort it out as quickly as possible.

### ***So, what do you think?***

If you think this sounds like a good idea, tell the adult who gave you this to read. They will then need to obtain some forms which when completed will help us find the best Big Brother or Big Sister for you!