QUEENSLAND WRITERS CENTRE

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QWC RESOURCE SHEET # 9

Mentors

What is a mentor and what can one do for me?

A mentor is generally a more experienced (hopefully published) writer, or in some cases, an editor who can guide newer writers and help to develop and improve their writing. This may consist of reading and critiquing work, offering market and publishing advice, and assisting with the building of professional networks.

Where can I find a mentor?

A mentor may be an individual who offers one-on-one attention over a longer period of time, or you may be able to participate in a shorter term program for a week or two.

A variety of programs and services are available in Australia for people seeking mentorship, however, keep in mind that competition for entry into mentoring programs is fierce, and that the cost of mentoring services can be high.

Some of the programs available include:

- the QWC-Hachette Livre Manuscript Development Program – 2009 dates and details to be advised;
- the Society of Editors (Qld)-CAL Editing Project Program – 2009 dates and details to be advised;
- the Varuna series of fellowships and programs, including the HarperCollins Varuna Awards for Manuscript Development, Varuna Fellowships for Writing Retreats, the Longlines Program and the Varuna Professional Development Residencies (paying) – for more information go to www.varuna.com.au/;
- the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) Mentorship Program – applications will re-open in early 2009 – visit the website for further details www.asauthors.org/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=ASP0016/ccms.r.

Some manuscript assessors and editorial services offer mentoring as one of their services. Should you decide that paying a mentor is an option for you, make sure you investigate several companies, ask for referrals and be very certain as to how much you will be paying and exactly what you will be getting for your money. ***The Australian Writer's Marketplace*** (AWM) lists Writers' Services and also Fellowships and other mentoring opportunities. AWM is available from QWC for $43.95 Members/$49.95 Non-members; or an online subscription can be purchased at www.awmonline.com.au. It can also be accessed at most libraries.

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How much does a mentor charge?
Rates vary – if you are fortunate enough to be accepted into a program such as the ASA Mentoring Program there will be no cost to you. If you are employing a mentor then you may well be paying the rates set by the ASA (visit their site for details www.asauthors.org/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=ASP0016/ccms.r).

Sometimes you can apply for a grant to cover the costs of mentorship – see QWC's **Resource Sheet #1 – Grants and Funding for Writers** for possible funding sources.