



## Northern District Times (NSW)

Wednesday 24/02/2010

Page: 33  
Section: General News  
Region: Sydney, AU  
Circulation: 58552  
Type: Suburban  
Size: 147.37 sq.cms.



**slice**  
slicemedia.com

press clip

## Sisters doin' it for themselves - with a hand

SIX years ago Jessica Brown lobbied parliament house to grant funding for a program she founded, called 'SISTER2Sister'.

She succeeded, and SISTER2sister began providing a 12-month mentoring program for teenage girls who are at risk.

"That means they have been abused, neglected or their parents are in jail or are alcoholics, so these girls really need a positive role model in their life," Ms Brown said.

"We match the girls up with a 'big sister', a mentor who usually a woman from the corporate or business world."

The "big sisters" are all volunteers to attend courses, take part in workshops and offer valuable guidance and support.

"The impact of the program has been phenomenal," Ms Brown said. "We see dramatic changes in the girls, and we just

had a little sister come in who was in the program three years ago, and she said she is such a changed person.

"She stopped taking drugs and she stopped attempting suicide, and she has completed two TAFE courses."

However the SISTER2sister program currently needs funding to make sure its vital programs can continue helping the girls who desperately need support.

"We are given most of our funding from the major banks, but the financial crisis has an impact on the banks and that impacted us," Ms Brown said.

An information evening will be held on Wednesday, March 3, at Beiersdorf Australia, 4 Khartoum Rd, North Ryde, from 7pm to 8.30pm.

RSVP by Monday, March 1, by email to [lyndal@lifechangingexperiences.org](mailto:lyndal@lifechangingexperiences.org) or call 9211 9129.

