Agencies Questions and Answers

This gala event needs the support of you and your staff to ensure its success. From our experience, we know that each young person requires considerable encouragement if they are to make it through the 10 week long process of dance classes.

**Support person**

There are several ways you can support the young participants, including:

* transporting to and from dance classes
* providing on-hand support at dance classes
* understanding and meeting the dress and suit requirements
* motivating and encouraging your young people to attend all dance classes

You should consider identifying a staff member willing to act as mentor for each of your young people; supporting them for the ten x weekly dance lessons, on the night of the ball and after the event. We have seen this one-on-one support contribute to the young person’s commitment to their goal and enhance their experience of the event.

**What is the cut-off date for Deb applications?**

Deb applications close on 17.07.2017, however it is recommended to get all completed applications in earlier to as it can be difficult to liaise with young people to complete their required forms. This will also allow you time to plan for how the young person will be supported during the dance classes and on the day of the ball.

**Where and when are the dance lessons?**

Dance lessons will run for 10 weeks in a row.

Between 26.07.2017- 28.09.2017

5:30-7:30pm @ The Salvation Army Dance Hall at 69 Burke St, Melbourne.

**What information can you give me about the dances?**

There will be two dances and a meet and greet on the night. The young people who reside in the metro area will complete all dances and the meet and greet. The young people who reside in the country or rural areas will partake in one dance and the meet and greet on the night.

**What if my client lives in the country/ rural area?**

Young people from the country and rural areas of Victoria are encouraged to participate. These young people will be expected to attend on the day of the Debutante Ball however are able to do the 10 weeks

of dance classes via video. The dance lessons will be recorded and sent to the young people (and support worker) and it is expected that a support worker be assigned to assist the young person to learn the

dance moves in preparation. These young people will be included in one dance and the meet and greet on the event night.

**What should my client look for in a suitable dance partner to accompany them in the Deb Ball?**

The purpose of the Debutante ball is to provide young people the opportunity of a grand experience of elegance and grace to celebrate their coming of age in a supportive environment.

To make it a really special night and a safe place for all the Debutantes, we would like to stress the importance of the young people picking a suitable and supportive dance partner.

Here is a quick guide for suitable and supportive dance partner requirements to consider:

* Age appropriate.
* Able to commit to 10 weeks of dance lessons in the city.
* Reliable, Respectful and Punctual.
* Not under the influence of drugs or alcohol at dance lessons or on the night of the ball.
* Preferably not a boyfriend or girlfriend as there might be a parting of ways before the ball. Boyfriends/girlfriends may be invited as their guest.
* Someone who will not pose a safety risk to the young person or other young people attending.

Please encourage your young person to discuss suitable partner options; we will also be able to do some matching of partners.

 **Tickets**

Young people doing their Deb will be allocated tickets to invite the important people in their lives to attend on the night. The girls will receive 2 tickets and the boys will receive 1.

These people may include:

* Family members
* Carers
* Friends
* Support Workers

**Dresses and Suits**

Agencies will be required to fund the clothing attire for their young people within the guidelines to be provided. This office will seek corporate and other sponsorship for those young participants who do not have any Agency support.

**Getting involved**

On a final note, we ask that you and other partners promote the event among colleagues and purchase a table on the night, to enable family, carers, staff and other young people to celebrate with your debutantes and their partners.

We encourage tables of staff and young people to attend the ball. We are aware that some young people may not be able to commit to 10 weeks of dance classes, but would love the experience of attending a ball!

Tickets are $120 per person which includes a three course meal, entertainment and the pleasure of watching the young people partake in the ball. Single tickets and tables of ten can be purchased! More details to come…