

Tennis NSW Future Leaders Info Session-20230713_180247-Meeting Recording

July 13, 2023, 8:02AM

20m 57s



Nikita Sayle 0:03

Alright, so welcome to our future leaders webinar information session.



Nikita Sayle started transcription



Nikita Sayle 0:11

I would just first like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we are meeting today.

I am on the traditional lands of the Toongagal people and I would just like to pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging, and extend those respects to the various lands and to any Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people who might be on the call and for those of you who don't know me, my name is Nikita Sayle and I am the head of inclusion, diversity and programming at Tennis NSW.

I've been at Tennis NSW now for seven years and I came from a background of an initially growing up, playing tennis and and.

Playing at a fairly high level and then I was in coaching and venue operations for many years before moving into some roles at Tennis NSW.

So and lots of experience in tennis, but also this program was something that I initiated along with a colleague of mine back in 2016 was the first year that we ran the program and we've seen so many fantastic young people come through this program who are continuing to have a really big impact in our sport and the tennis community.

So I'm really excited to continue the legacy of this program and excited for this next group of young people coming through as well.

I'm really exciting.

Uh this year, for the first time since we started the first year that we did run the program, we had a grant from the Office of Sport.

But each year after Tennis, NSW has continued to invest in this program.

But this year, we're very excited that Australian Open partner Infosys, who's a global leader in next Gen Digital services and consulting, has come on board as a sponsor

for our future leaders program for 2023.

And I've been working really closely with them.

On some enhancements to the program, which include a new online, a course component of small online course and access to a virtual platform as well as the mother.

Exciting things that we'll see at the workshop.

So what is future leaders?

It's a youth leadership program at for usually for year 9 and 10 only.

But this year, just with the difference in timing from our usual structure and we are including year 11 students as well because we don't wanna make sure that everybody has the opportunity to participate in this program, didn't want anybody to miss out based on the timing and what you'll learn is leadership and projects that skills throughout this experience and supported by tennis NSW through webinars are the online course which I just spoke about.

We have a face to Face Workshop day and checking opportunities with tennis NSW staff as well and that's all the support you to deliver a 15 hour volunteer project with your local tennis provider and at improving outcomes for for teens in tennis ideally.

So why do we do future leaders?

And why do we continue to invest in this program?

It's to provide young people with additional ways to stay involved in our sport and to encourage lifelong participation, and we know there's that drop off often in the teenage years, so this is one of the mechanisms that we're trying to use to #1 to get that.

And you know, the brains of young people involved in creating the solutions within local club environment, but also providing the skills to give young people other ways to to be able to stay involved in tennis, not just on the court and and it.

Yeah.

As I said, it's that long term succession planning of our volunteer workforce in our local club environments and also with tennis NSW as well.

 **Phoebe Forbes** joined the meeting



Nikita Sayle 4:04

For those to just jumping on now, this is also being recorded, so if you missed the start you were, you won't miss anything.

We'll provide this recording as well, so.

The learning journey for our future leaders program.

I'm hopefully you can see the screen OK with the colours, but we firstly will start with a welcome webinar and start talking about our project planning.

That first one is on the 22nd of August and that's also when you'll get access to your online learning course and the platform which you'll be able to do self paced learning through August and September.

They're very short and you can access them at any time.

That's I'm suitable for you on the 29th of August, we'll have our project planning webinar, so I run that session and we'll take you through.

How to come up with your project ideas how to plan your project and and start working out what what your projects might look like as well and project development and delivery goes from September all the way to March at 2024.

So you have a really long time frame to plan and implement your project, and we can talk a little bit more about what that looks like throughout this session.

And then we do do a future leaders workshop in October, and this is a really great experience having all of our future leaders come to Sydney for the day.

And this is really about learning those leadership skills.

And I'm going through some on and off court sessions where you'll grow your knowledge within tennis, but also learn a little bit more about yourself and network with like minded young people in our sport.

The last couple of years we've been really lucky to be able to have a small United Cup youth event which is totally optional.

You do not have to attend that as part of the program, but it's a nice little added bonus and a great experience.

And this year, with Infosys support, that will be a really great a opportunity for for everyone this year.

And then in April 2024, that's when we'll ask you to present back to us on your project and I'll talk a little bit in a moment about what that looks like as well.

Umm, I'll just play this little video for you.

This was shot during our last future leaders workshop and it gives you a a little behind the scenes of what that experience looks like.

I'm in a chat.

Please write if the sound isn't working, but it should be fine.

Today's been an incredible day.

I was fortunate to have been invited to contribute a little bit running a session on what kind of leadership do we want to build on an individual level and on a Community level leadership means to me is being able to control my own emotions and also to be able to help other people in need to get to where they want to be in their life.

I was so inspired by the kids today.

They really were vulnerable.

They spoke openly about what are the things that are holding them back and what are the things that they wanted from the future of tomorrow.

They have pole position to really make impact and positive change.

Being a leader to me means making other people feel listened to and valued and welcome in the space.

What the new generation of tennis with the next generation coming up and I think we can actually have a good influence on younger kids as well and also in influence on the older people as well.

I'm so that was.

Yeah, a little bit of a behind the scenes of our workshop day in Sydney and we always get amazing feedback about that experience and the opportunity to to meet other young people who are interested in the same things and wanna make a difference in the community.

So in terms of some key dates around the future leaders program, so applications are currently open, they've been open for a couple of weeks now and they will be closing at the moment on the 1st of August.

And we will notify the participants if they've been successful in securing their place by the 8th of August.

And then as I said in the last slide, our webinars are on the 22nd and 29th of August. Our Workshop Day 14th of October.

And then we'll notify of the final dates as we get a little bit closer to those.

So in terms of what you need to do to become involved, the first thing would be to talk to your local tennis provider.

So this could be club.

This could be a coaching operator.

This could be your school and it could be a community based organization.

And if you're going to do something with a community based organization, would love to have a chat with you about that and what that might look like.

And as it's not as traditional as what most people have done, but it's something that we see a lot of value in.

And if you already have those existing connections, we'd really like to encourage that pencil in some of the key dates into your diary.

And they're all on the application form as well.

So particularly the and the webinars and the workshop day, making sure that you have those available if you are selected into the program or a successful in your application and then completing the online application which I'll provide a QR code for you to be able to scan.

But hopefully you'll see that on our tennis NSW website and socials as well.

I'm excited this year as well that we are through infosys's support.

We have some inclusion and diversity scholarships available, so there is a \$50.00 participation fee attached to the future leaders program, and that fee will be waived for the participants who are eligible to receive the scholarships.

There's no limit to how many of those we can make available.

It's just whether you're accepted into the program.

If you are and you're eligible, then you'll be provided with that, and it's easy to apply for it.

It is part of the online registration form, so if you select the option that you want to apply a couple of additional questions, we'll pop up and on the left of the screen you can see some of the different reasons why you might be eligible for that scholarship, and it's fairly wide ranging.

So yeah, hopefully making sure that we're making the program accessible for people who need a little bit of additional support.

So the QR code is on the left of the screen.

There, you're welcome to scan it up now.

So you can jump on and do your application after the webinar, but some of the questions that I frequently get asked about the program #1 is what if I can't make it to any of the sessions so the webinars will be recorded and I really encourage people to come and attend them and that is always our first preference.

But if for some reason and you'll have to notify us if you can't attend them.

But if for some reason you're not able to make it, that will be available for you.

The only one that I would say you definitely cannot and not be able to make it too.

Obviously, if you're sick or something like that on the day, that's a different story, but please don't apply if you're not able to attend the future Leaders Workshop Day, as

it's such a big part of this program experience.

I'm do I already have to know what I wanna do for my project?

No, you don't have to know when you're applying.

You don't even have to know when you've started by October.

When we do the workshop, we will want you to submit your project idea by then to make sure that you have enough time to execute it.

But we'll be there to support you, to design your project.

We'll have other future leaders who have done the program before coming to the workshop as well and being involved who can help you really finalize your ideas during the workshop.

Umm.

Is the project a big commitment?

The project is as big a commitment as you wanna make it really, and I really recommend in most cases starting quite small with your project and making it very achievable.

I I know that, umm, you know, particularly those in your tan and and and those who will be in your 11 there is a little bit more schooling commitments and things that are also competing with other things in your life.

So I think trying to make it something a little bit smaller and focused and targeted to get your confidence up, so that hopefully in the future you can keep wanting to volunteer, I guess the idea behind this program is where wanting to give you a great experience.

We're wanting you to enjoy the experience of volunteering and we're wanting you to want to come back and do it again.

So giving yourself the pressure of doing a huge project, I don't think always achieves those goals of of, you know, feeling like it's something that you wanna come back and do again.

So I'm happy to talk with anyone about their projects, but it's a 15 hour is the time commitment that we ask for as part of this and that's in the planning and execution.

So it's not a a huge time commitment.

I know the Victoria do the same program and they asked for 40 hours, so we try to make it very flexible because we know how busy young people are and we know the pressures that you all have as well and what are some of the projects future leaders have done before.

And so, I mean, obviously young people are great with technology.

And so we've had a lot of like promotional videos, interviews with young people at tennis clubs that the clubs can then promote through their social media.

And we've also had press releases created about the club and the participant being involved in the future leaders program that have gone out to local media and we've had people supporting in delivering open days at their tennis venues, fundraising events and supporting coaching sessions and also providing ideas and enhancements to things that are going on in their local tennis venue.

That's going to improve the experience for young people, so it's very broad.

There is no yes or no from us in terms of what it is you can do if it's something that you're really passionate about and interested in.

We've had someone before do a research project for example, where they did some surveys and provided recommendations to the club as well.

And so if there's something that you're really passionate about, that's where I'd love you to focus.

And then it's about talking to your local tennis provider or whoever you're wanting to, umm, work with on your project to make sure that it's something that they're also comfortable with.

How is the project presented back to Tennis NSW?

So after the projects are delivered, we will organise usually with your.

Group, A small group from your local region and your regional tennis manager and local tennis development offices.

And I try to jump on them as well.

But we do a virtual session where everybody has an opportunity to present their project usually with a couple of slides and some videos and photos and we provide you with a couple of questions that we'd.

Love you to address when you're presenting back.

So we we support and guide you through that process and we also provide a project report form which is just a pretty simple short form where we just learn a little bit more about how you did your project, what the outcomes were and what you learned.

And if I'm a tennis provider, what role do you play in the experience?

We encourage our tennis providers to meet with the future leaders participants and as they go to register for the program.

So that is on the young person to try to reach out to your provider to let them know you're gonna apply for the program.

Once you're in working together and checking in regularly on what you're trying to achieve and making sure that the future leader feels supported through the process and then we're really encouraging after the programs finished, the tennis providers having a discussion with the young person about how they can continue to contribute within the tennis community if they wish to do that, which I think is a really important part of this program.

We have had feedback from our youth advisory group who are all young people, mostly, who have been through the program, that they love the experience and they wanna do more.

And so we're really trying to help facilitate that opportunity.

My last video I'm just gonna play.

This is from a couple of years ago, but it follows a couple of our future leaders who have done the program just talking about their experience, which might give you a little bit of an idea about what they've done and what they're doing.

And Shivani here, who's on the screen on your right?

She will talk about it in a moment, but she started in our very first year of future leaders and she's still involved in tennis volunteering.

She's actually our ballkid operations manager for the United Cup and she is really involved still in supporting volunteering through our future leaders programs.

She's been involved in our youth advisory group and she has just got her and a pilot's license as well.

So she's going to become a commercial airline pilot.

So for normal young woman, but I guess just an example of what what can happen when you're once you've been involved in the program.

Umm, so I had a future leaders in 2016, which I think was the first year and there we did a lot of team building skills and I made a lot of friends there that a lot of people from still in contact with.

My future leading experience was really fun.

I found it amazing to do and I think it involved is making like so many more connections and meeting new people from all around the region, which was really good.

Yeah, I found it really helpful.

Like you got to experience new things, meet new friends that have the same interests as you.

And and I just create new bonds that you haven't that you didn't before.

See you ladies, help me with collaboration, teamwork skills.

Working with other kids and other people off court, I also volunteer a lot with kids.

Wish, which is just like a charity on a Tuesday that does sports for disabled kids, and I work with strictly with the wheelchair kids and it's given me a lot more courage to coach him by myself.

So the other week, when there was no one else there, I was fine.

I was ready to go after future leaders.

I managed to get a job with my club as a Red Bull coach with.

Voyager.

So at the future leaders course, we did many kind of Red Bull course.

So after that I was able to then get a job so future leaders helped me organize a 24 hour tennis athon, which is to raise awareness for leukemia.

And it all started out when my friend got diagnosed with it a couple of years ago and I first started planning it.

I guess with Tennis NSW I got them involved, spoke to different businesses to get prizes for the raffle that we're doing.

We ended up raising pretty much near our goal, which was around \$8000.

Yeah.

So I'd probably recommend it for people who do want to develop their leadership skills and become more involved in their tennis communities and their tennis clubs and people who just want to, you know, build up all those schools for the future and possibly help other people.

All right.

So that is the end of the formal presentation and I might just stop the recording for a moment.

Yeah.

● **Nikita Sayle** stopped transcription