

Re: Maddie Hedderwick

To whom it may concern,

I first met Maddie in 2017 as the recipient of the Magic Moments Youth Leadership and Business Summit Telstra Scholarship. Maddie's application was the first glimpse I had of what I believed to be a very passionate and powerful young woman. Over the course of the next twelve months, Maddie supported the founding of Youth Leadership Academy Australia (YLAA) and was involved in the development and delivery of our initial leadership program in Perth in August 2018.

Beyond this event, Maddie and I stayed in touch regularly and I had the pleasure of witnessing her achieve remarkable things within her leadership positions with UWA and NAAUC.

In 2020 Maddie rejoined the team at YLAA as events and marketing manager in preparation for our national tour. Maddie directly supported over 4000 young people from 400 schools in 7 states & territories across the country to attend our leadership programs. Maddie worked tirelessly with schools from low SES areas to ensure their students did not miss out, this dedication inspired me.

Maddie additionally joined me to travel remotely to facilitate regional leadership programs in VIC and NSW areas where students often missed out on these opportunities. Maddie has an admirable level of courage, which consistently challenged me to step up as a leader and establish greater ways to support rural and remote areas.

As a young organisation having someone as experienced as Maddie within the team was invaluable - Maddie's contribution to YLAA as well as the young leaders she has impacted will be felt for decades to come. Maddie's work has directly supported now beyond 25,000 young people from across Australia. Working alongside Maddie was an absolute pleasure, the passion, resilience, integrity and loyalty she brought into both the workplace and life is something I truly admire about Maddie.

I wholeheartedly endorse and support the nomination of Maddie Hedderwick for the Deakin University Hallmark for 'Excellence in Leadership'.

Sincerely,

Wil Massara

CEO & Founder

Youth Leadership Academy Australia