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Category: Police

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Aspire Today
INFLUENCE TOMORROW
Competition



When I was out for a run one day, I stopped for breath near a park corner. I glanced up to see four wheels rolling down the concrete path, stopping every few seconds before commencing on their way again. The owner of the walker was a fiercely independent woman in her later years and I recognized her. I'd run past her before, on my regular route, never stopping to talk because I didn't see what we could have in common. But this time I stopped, set aside my agenda and with my pace matching hers, we walked around the park along the concrete path. That began a kind of friendship, she barely spoke English but I felt she still valued my company and the effort I had made to connect with her. And each time we walked past one another and smiled, in the months after that day, each time she patted me on the back and warmly grasped my hand; I strengthened my resolve and learnt a precious lesson on the power of Community to impact someone's life. With strong communities we bridge barriers of every kind and make our community a place we are proud to live in and call home. As a born and raised Novocastrian, I am proud to call this city my community, a community that is my family. The Police Force has an important role to play in our community, not only in keeping it safe but also through education and public awareness programs that I've personally seen the impact of.

So if I were to aspire today to influence tomorrow, the foundation of my goals would be to build community. The work of the police is central to this and working with the NSW Police Force and other community and government organisations is important if we wish to make Newcastle a harmonious and happy place to live. Programs already exist that feed and support the homeless such as Soul Café, provide meals and a support network for the elderly through Meals on Wheels and keep us long and lean with our weekly Parkrun as well as public awareness programs run in schools by the NSW Police Force regarding drug education and staying safe online. I would aspire to find a way to connect my generation to these existing organisations, so that as we become the future leaders of the community of Newcastle, we can be people of influence in our community and future generations. I believe many young people my age would love to contribute meaningfully but simply lack a facilitator to make this happen. I aspire to be a leader that can build on the legacy of community in Newcastle in new and exciting ways, with each individual contributing to the healthy development of our city.

One may call this kind of thinking unrealistic, that no city could ever truly be united as one big family, however I believe differently. A leader is someone who, through hard work and dedication, challenges and inspires us to achieve what we previously thought was impossible. The best leaders are not solely defined by their charismatic personalities, but by their ability to listen to those they are leading, to collaborate and then to act. As I develop as a leader myself, I try to model my behavior on the kind of leader I would like to be led by. I'm inspired by Nelson Mandela, whose selfless work had an unprecedented impact on the path of South African history. I'm currently a Junior Leader in my Girl Guide group, which has taught me the value of patience and a can-do attitude when faced with any problem. Last year I led the Pakistani team during their visit to Newcastle, as part of the Special Olympics, showing them all Newcastle has to offer. In every sphere of my life, I try my best to build community, whether this be through my school, my church or my Girl Guide group. My hope is that this experience working with the NSW Police Force will equip me with knowledge and skills that will inspire me to have greater influence both now and in future areas of my life.