

Teens Helping Teens February 2004 Fairfield Advance

THE Student Representative Council at Fairvale High School has always raised money for big charities such as Jeans for Genes Day and The Cancer Council.

But when the group was approached to raise money for an organisation that helps underprivileged girls, they thought it was right up their alley.

Students Steven Nguyen and Julie Tran know the difficulties some teenagers face growing up and have already sold more than 200 raffle tickets to help support needy teenage girls.

“we know that sometimes with school, work and other commitments life can get a little tough,” Julie said

A Spokeswoman from Life Changing Experiences Said the Big Sis project would start in the school holidays and was a five day mentoring program with personalities, best – selling authors and clinical psychologists acting as mentors.

Fairvale High SRC coordinator Simon Sehm said teenage girls were faced with difficulties on a daily basis, particularly some of the 85 per cent of students at his school who were of Asian descent.

“At our school, often some of the students are coming to school, going home and having to cook dinner and look after their siblings because their parents are both at work,” said Mr Sehm

“And on top of that they might have a part – time job and because this particular ethnic group are often too shy to put their hand up and say “I’m not coping,” the kids can really feel the pressure.”

He said the project was beneficial because it involved teens helping teens.