



CENTRAL
Wednesday 10/08/2011

Page: 6
Section: General News
Region: Sydney, AU
Circulation: 38691
Type: Suburban
Size: 95.92 sq.cms.



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press clip

SISTERS ARE DOING IT ... TO HELP OTHERS

SYDNEY music teacher Jessica Brown gave up her nine-to-five job to help young women in need get back on track.



Jessica Brown

“For a long time, I wanted to find a way to build up self-esteem and provide healthy role models for teenagers – so I started the Life Changing Experiences Foundation, which works with troubled teenage girls across Sydney and helps them turn their lives around,” Ms Brown said.

The foundation has just been named a finalist in the Community and Social Services category of the City of Sydney Business Awards. SISTER2Sister is a 12-month mentoring and risk management program that matches girls with successful female role models from the local community and the corporate world.

Set up in 2003, the foundation has raised more than \$3 million to fund its SISTER2Sister program, which has helped more than 250 girls and attracted high-profile ambassadors such as singer Natalie Bassingthwaite, journalist Sarah Wilson and author Jacinta Tynan.

“Within just two years I managed to go from being \$30,000 in debt to raising over \$1 million for our mentoring program, securing federal government funding and winning the Pride of Australia Medal – not bad for a humble school teacher,” Ms Brown said. “So many of the girls we work with continue their close relationships with their mentors even after the program finishes, and I have no doubt that many of these bonds will prove to be lifelong.”

Winners will be announced on September 13.