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OUR MENTORS AND MENTEES SHARE WHY THEY FIND MENTORING SO VALUABLE

Mentee

Jessica Choong

Senior Associate, Allens

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR NEW ROLE?

In the last year, I have relocated from Melbourne to Singapore. This has been a significant period of development in my career, in terms of my role and responsibilities. Since being in Singapore, I have had exposure to a range of regional matters and the opportunity to develop great working relationships with my colleagues and clients across South-East Asia, as well as back in Australia. Singapore is a real hub of activity in the region

and it has been great to be able to build and draw upon my networks to bring value to our clients' and our business.

WHAT WERE YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE PROGRAM?

I expected that the program would provide to the opportunity for me to be paired with an experienced role model, someone who would be able to share with me their learnings from their own experiences, in a way that would allow me to think more strategically about my career.

DID IT MEET THEM?

Yes – it has met, and exceeded, my expectations.

WHAT WAS A KEY OUTCOME?

The program has provided an invaluable development opportunity. Through my discussions with Alison, I have been able to reflect on my professional and personal goals and how to plan for and achieve them. We have explored, and Alison has helped me to guide me through and see from a different perspective, various career development themes. I have developed a greater self-awareness and confidence in how to navigate through challenges and uncertainties that may arise.

WHAT ASPECTS WERE THE MOST VALUABLE?

As mentioned above, the last year has been a significant period of transition in my career. During this time, it has been invaluable to have had a confidential sounding board and honest and open discussions with Alison. Alison has also been extremely flexible with arrangements for our meetings. Initially, and before my move to Singapore, we had a number of face-to-face meetings. Since then, we have been meeting by phone and have scheduled face-to-face meetings to coincide with our travel to Australia and Singapore.

WAS IT A GOOD MATCH?

Yes, it was an incredible match! I have a deep trust in, and respect for, Alison and we have a great chemistry – the time always seems to fly by during our discussions.



JESSICA CHOONG

Mentor

Alison Terry

Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer at Foundation for Young Australians; Non-Executive Director of AustralianSuper

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING A MENTOR?

Getting to know mentees and being able to see them progress on their career journey, while helping them to consider the pros and cons of different pathways and options. I really enjoy catching up to hear how things have progressed since our previous meeting, and sharing the successes! It's also a great opportunity to learn about an industry or sector that you might not have been exposed to before - mentoring is definitely a two-way learning experience.

HOW DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE ASSISTED JESSICA AS HER MENTOR?

I think I've been able to help her think through what is important to her in work and life. Jessica always comes to our meetings well prepared so we are able to explore the broader direction, as well as talk about some of the current issues she deals with in her role. Being a good listener is critical I think - Jessica always has a strong sense of where she's heading, but talking things through with someone outside the day-to-day can often provide a bit more clarity.

HAS IT BEEN A GOOD MATCH?

It's been a great match. We've got to know each other well over the last 12 months and definitely share similar values and outlook on life and work. And we discovered recently that we even share the same birthday!

WHAT DO YOU SEE IS THE BENEFIT TO ALLENS

The start of our mentoring relationship coincided with Jessica taking up a new role with Allens' partner firm, Linklaters in Singapore. This obviously took Jessica out of the mainstream at Allens and having our mentoring arrangement in place gave Jessica another avenue for exploring the new challenges of her new position offshore. More broadly, mentoring will complement the other professional development and training programs provided by Allens for their staff, as each mentee works on their own

leadership and career journey.

HAVE YOU HAD MENTORS IN YOUR LIFE AND HOW HAVE THEY ASSISTED YOU?

Yes, I've had quite a few mentors and they have been very helpful to me as I've progressed through my own career and had to make choices along the way. I've found that people outside your workplace or industry can often provide insights from a different perspective that can be extremely helpful.



ALISON TERRY



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