



# Building empathy and positive relationships.

## **What is "Friendship and Responsibility"?**

This 8-week program uses Dog Assisted Education to help young people develop empathy, relationship-building skills, and a sense of responsibility. Through activities with a certified therapy dog and an experienced mentor, participants learn how to make friends, understand others' feelings, and work together in a supportive environment.

Looking for a way to support young people who may struggle with friendships, social anxiety, or need a boost in social skills?

This program is designed to make a meaningful difference for every participant.

## **Activity Highlights**

- Building empathy and understanding differences
- Learning about responsibility and caring for others
- Navigating friendship challenges and resolving conflicts
- Practising social skills and teamwork
- Developing self-confidence and resilience

## **Program Options to Suit Your Needs**

Open to all students, especially those who are neurodiverse, experience anxiety, are part of minority groups, or need extra help with friendships and social skills. Fully funded by your school or library—there are no costs for families or carers.

Sessions are inclusive and adaptable to ensure everyone feels welcome and supported.



### **Benefits**

- Builds empathy and understanding of others
- Encourages positive friendships and social connections
- Supports confidence and emotional well-being
- Provides a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable space

### **Why Choose Dog-Assisted Learning?**

- Create a calm, welcoming environment for all
- Encourage teamwork and cooperation
- Support emotional regulation and resilience
- Make learning about friendship fun and engaging

### **Important Details**

- Maximum of 10 participants per group for focused support
- All sessions are inclusive, evidence-based, and tailored to individual needs
- Participants reflect on progress and celebrate their achievements

### **What People Are Saying**

*"Canine Comprehension was such a brilliant program for our students—they thrived on having Cooper during the day at school as it made something to look forward to if they were having a bad morning. Samantha was brilliant—she made a beautiful impact by getting to know the children."*

— St Thomas More Hadfield

**[www.CanineComprehension.com.au](http://www.CanineComprehension.com.au)**