

# If I love it, iLearn it really well

By Sophie Malcolm

Whether it's science or sport, cooking or cars, Geoff Allemand believes that if you love it, you will learn it.

That's the premise behind the "edupreneur's" newest initiative, iLearn.

Mr Allemand said the program, due to start this month, was built around the individual and an alternative to mainstream school for students who were disengaged or at risk of dropping out.

"It's important that young people today get to live their own learning," Mr Allemand said.

"It's quite simple. Learning is the result of having to work things out for yourself. iLearn provides both face-to-face and online mentors to help and encourage them to do the work."

A former primary school teacher, Mr Allemand built a career on working with young people.

"I'm looking at the kids who are being held back by school, who

can't see the sense in it," he said.

"When you're passionate about something, you can make it happen."

He said an example of that passion might be a young person interested in business — as part of the program, they could work with mentors to make their dream of setting up shop a reality.

Mr Allemand said he had teamed up with businesses and businesspeople to create a community to support what he hoped would become "self-managed learners".

"The doing is being in and linked to the real world via people, objects, places and situations," he said.

"We have formed some key business and community partnerships to foster the learning of young people and we're keen to hear of any others who would like to be involved."

The program starts this month and Mr Allemand urged young people between the ages of 15 and 18 to apply for its



**Ready to iLearn:** Juvena Terlich, 17, retail mentors Fern Summer and Joe Sofra, Michaela Terlich, 15, iLearn's Geoff Allemand, Tim Allemand, 19, retail mentor John Anderson, Luke Schubert, 16, and music production mentor Lachlan Cresswell.

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— **GEOFF ALLEMAND**

full-time or online programs.

Students in the full-time program would also be able to complete accredited certificate courses and VCAL for

senior students, Mr Allemand said.

● For more information, phone 0459 215 205 or search Geoff iLearn on Facebook.

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