

Global Learning and Engagement Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the March/April edition of the Global Learning and Engagement newsletter.

I hope you had the opportunity to relax, reconnect with your friends and family, and recharge over the break and are looking forward to an exciting Term 2.

As you may already be aware, nominations for the Victorian Education Excellence Awards (VEEA) are now open. The awards celebrate the outstanding Victorian government school professionals who support young people to develop the skills and learning outcomes they need to succeed in life. The VEEA are awarded in a number of

individual and team categories, including the Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award. This award is named in honour of the late Dr Lawrie Shears, who served as Director-General of the Victorian Education Department from 1973 to 1982 and was a strong advocate of building global education connections. Whether you are active in or new to the global learning and engagement space, I highly encourage you to read information on the awards available in this newsletter.

I am also delighted to share that our virtual Young Leaders to India participants have recently completed their six-week program journey, focusing on peer-to-peer collaboration across borders and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The program brought together 80 Year 9 students and 20 schools and teachers from Victoria and India and received highly positive feedback from the participants. Students were supported throughout the program by 10 mentors from India and the Victorian Indian diaspora. The program provided an opportunity for the participants to build their intercultural capabilities and facilitated a series of group interactions to enhance their understanding of culture, home and school life in Australia and India. Some of the project themes included in the closing forum were related to climate action, poverty eradication, preventing racism, gender awareness and mental health. We've created a [highlights film](#) to showcase what our students got up to during their short program.

Hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Happy reading.



Highlights from the Student Voice Forum

The department's celebration of international student voice has recommenced in 2023. A cohort of 11 government and non-government schools and over 60 students came together in Term 1 to create student-led global learning and engagement initiatives at their schools. Some initiatives students plan to implement include introducing global learning student leaders, an art competition, stage performance, trivia night and more. As part of the project, students and their supporting teachers will continue to receive individualised

coaching to help them stay on track and see their initiatives through to fruition. In Term 3, the cohort of student voice ambassadors will come back together to discuss what they implemented and how to create sustained change.

Deadline extended: Connecting Schools with Indian Communities program

Schools can apply for funding of up to \$25,000 to develop and deliver a project to connect with Victoria's Indian community as part of the Connecting Schools with Indian Communities (CSIC) program. The CSIC program forms part of the Victorian Government's 10-year strategy to strengthen Victoria's ties with India. The pilot program in 2019-20 successfully provided Victorian government schools with support to create collaborative partnerships with the Indian diaspora to build student and community intercultural capability, global awareness, and to enhance awareness and understanding of India.

To express interest in the program, read the [CSIC Program Guide](#) and email a completed copy of the [application](#) to global-learning.engagement@education.vic.gov.au by 5 May 2023.

For more information, see: [CSIC 2023](#), or contact Hannah Thiele at: hannah.thiele@education.vic.gov.au



Nominations open for the Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award

Nominations for the 2023 Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award are now open. This award category is part of the Victorian Education Excellence Awards (VEEAs) that provide winners of each category with professional development grants of up to \$25,000. The Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award recognises school teams that demonstrate excellence in global learning and engagement at their school and provide their students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

The 2023 nominations can be submitted through the online nomination system, [Award Force](#), before 4.00 pm on 29 May 2023. For more information, visit: [VEEA](#), or email: excellence.awards@education.vic.gov.au

Incoming international delegations and school visits

Victorian schools host many international delegations interested in learning about Victoria's approach to student health and wellbeing, teacher professional development, curriculum and assessment, multicultural education, school management and the broader Education State reforms. These delegations consist of overseas government officials, academics, and education practitioners, and offer insights into Victoria's education policies and practices through presentations, meetings, and discussions. Participation in the program provides schools the opportunity to:

- create two-way information exchange for the mutual benefit of schools and delegates to maximise learning opportunities
- share professional practice and showcase education excellence
- build international connections that support global learning and engagement.

If your school is interested in hosting international delegations, please email: ied.stakeholder.engagement@education.vic.gov.au or visit: [International Delegations](#) for further information.

Professional Development



School's In for Refugees: short course

The department, as part of the Schools Support Program, is offering the School's In for Refugees, free short course for educators at all levels to build their capacity to address the needs of children, young people, and families who have experienced trauma and displacement. The program will be delivered online by Foundation House to teachers, school leaders and other school professionals from any Victorian school.

To register, visit: [Foundation House – Schools](#).

Enhancing Engagement through Student Voice – webinar

The Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership (VATL) is currently accepting registrations from Victorian school leaders, teachers and well-being school staff to participate in the Enhancing Engagement through Student Voice webinar. In this fully subsidised session,

Emeritus Professor Helen Cahill, will help the participants explore the transformative nature of student voice on adults, students, and school communities.

For more information, or to register your interest in the event, visit: [VATL – webinar](#).

For Students



Globally Engaged Learners: Global Up Teen – Global Competence Certificate (Years 7 – 12)

The Globally Engaged Learners (GELs) program funds a range of global learning and engagement activities that enable international and local student collaboration. This year, one of the activities delivered under the GELs banner is the Global UP Teen – Global Competence Certificate for students in Years 7 – 12. This is an online learning program that develops global skills to live, work and make a real social impact around the world, and helps build essential lifelong skills, such as collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, cross-cultural communication, open-mindedness, and flexibility.

To participate in the program, see: [Value Learning - GCC](#), or email: eloise@valuelearning.com.au. For information on other GELs activities, visit our [website](#).



Project Global Citizen Bootcamp: 'The United Nations Environmental Challenge' (Years 10 – 12)

In this 3-hour bootcamp, students in Years 10 – 12 collaborate with students from across the world to solve a challenge relating to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

Victorian and Indonesian schools have recently participated in the first bootcamp delivered as part of the program. The program involved 100 students from 6 Victorian and Indonesian schools and examined the relevant cultural intelligence skills students need to participate in international development programs, such as the Ocean Cleanup. In anticipation and excitement of joining the program, Indonesian students in Bintan organised their own beach clean up and had their efforts recognised by the Ocean Cleanup organisation based in Rotterdam. The program received great feedback from local and international student participants and many of them reported that they particularly enjoyed learning how different cultural backgrounds influence behaviours.

To participate in future Project Global Citizen activities, contact: [Project Global Citizen](#), or email Deb Moran, Coordinator, Project Global Citizen at: coordinator@projectglobalcitizen.com

Expressions of interest now open for the Victorian Students' Parliamentary Program

Applications are now open for the 2023 Victorian Students' Parliamentary Program (VSPP). The VSPP provides immersive opportunities that support civics and citizenship education through local, state, and national parliamentary programs. The program consists of a series of conventions to help students learn through participation in informed, parliamentary style debates on a range of topics affecting Australia's democracy. Schools from all sectors can opt-into the program to support the teaching of civics and citizenship education in their school. Separate conventions will be held for primary schools (designed for Years 5 and 6 students) and secondary schools (designed for Years 9 and 10 students).

For more information, or to register your interest, visit: [VSPP](#).

Resources



Learning through languages: plurilingual strategies for primary classrooms

This inclusion of **plurilingual awareness** in the Victorian Curriculum F-10 validates the importance of language and the role it plays in an individual's sense of self and identity. In order to build capacity for this focus, a team from Monash University worked with a group of

teachers in primary schools to use plurilingual strategies in the classroom and leverage students' home languages to engage students and improve learning outcomes.

To find out more about the department's plurilingual resources, see: [Learning through languages: plurilingual strategies for primary classrooms](#). Interested teachers can also register on the English as an Additional Language (EAL) provider page on the [Arc platform](#).

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