



Global Learning and Engagement Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the May/June edition of the Global Learning and Engagement newsletter.

This month's edition is packed full of exciting global learning and engagement updates and professional development opportunities for our schools and educators.

Earlier in June, we celebrated the annual Victorian Global Learning Awards, where I had the opportunity to meet with many inspiring international students, schools, and homestay families. I would like to take this opportunity to

congratulate the 2023 award recipients and acknowledge the tireless support role played by their teachers and principals.

I am also pleased to share that the department recently hosted a delegation from the Selangor State Executive Council, Malaysia. The trip involved a visit to the Lady Gowrie Child Care Centre, and discussions with the Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep and the Deputy Secretary for Early Childhood Education on best practices in early childhood and kindergarten operations and curriculum. If your school is interested in hosting international delegations, please visit our [website](#) for information.

I would also like to thank schools that visited the International Education Division stall at the recent Government Schools Principals Conference. It was our pleasure to speak with you and provide you information on a range of global learning and engagement programs offered by the department. To support your commitment to equipping students with the skills they need to live and excel in this globalised world, we have developed a [brochure](#) with information on our 2023 programs. I encourage you to share this resource with your relevant networks.

Hope you have a wonderful and relaxing term break.

Connecting Schools with Indian School Communities 2023 program commencement

The department would like to congratulate the five Victorian government schools that will take part in the 2023 Connecting Schools with Indian Communities (CSIC) program. Successful schools will be provided funding of up to \$25,000 to develop local partnerships and activities designed to strengthen community engagement with Victoria's Indian diaspora. The 2023 program activities include, designing a community art gallery, introducing a cultural dance, establishing music education and mentoring programs, producing a Bollywood film, and hosting a whole-school Yoga day, cultural excursions and an Indian night market. Each school will report on how their respective activities contributed to stronger and more meaningful connections with the Indian community and provided opportunities for students to enhance their global citizenship and intercultural skills.

For more information on the 2023 CSIC funded schools and projects, visit: [CSIC program 2023](#), or contact: global-learning.engagement@education.vic.gov.au



2023 Victorian Global Learning Awards ceremony

The department recently hosted the annual Victorian Global Learning Awards (VGLA) ceremony to celebrate international student excellence and recognise schools and homestay families for outstanding global learning and engagement. This year saw one of the largest award cohorts to date, with 27 award recipients from across 10 countries and 14 Victorian schools. The ceremony was attended by the proud family members of students, their teachers and homestay families. Parliamentary Secretary for Education, the department's Secretary and consular representatives from China, Malaysia, Japan and Indonesia were also in attendance.

During the ceremony, the 2023 International Student of the Year award recipient, Hendrick Lin from Balwyn High School reflected on his international student journey and said, 'Through the setbacks and challenges I have faced along the way, I have discovered the crucial ability to adapt in the face of the unexpected, and learnt the importance of effective communication, and collaboration in creating unity and belonging in the school community.'

For a full list of this year's award recipients, see: [2023 VGLA winners](#).

Highlights from the Emerging Leaders Forums 2023 pilot program

The Emerging Leaders Forums (ELFs) pilot program was successfully delivered in May for over 120 Years 7 and 8 students from 10 Victorian and 13 international schools. Findings from the evaluation indicate that the program:

- expanded students' perceptions of leadership, such as public speaking and community engagement
 - empowered students to embrace diverse leadership styles
 - widened student perceptions of 'community,' from a narrow 'facilities and services' to a 'relational and human connectedness' understanding
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- increased student understanding and value of cultural differences.

The second cohort of ELF will be delivered in Term 3 to connect Years 5 and 6 Victorian students with students from schools across the Asia Pacific. Places are limited and fully funded by the department.

For more information and to express interest in the program, schools can visit: [Asia Education Foundation](#).

Call for expression of interest for new foreign arrangements

The expression of interest process is open for schools interested in forming new sister school partnerships or varying existing partnerships with international counterparts. This is in line with Australia's foreign policy objectives under Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 (the Act). Under the Act, schools submit a proposal to the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the International Education Division, before negotiating and entering into written arrangements with foreign entities.

If your school is considering a new sister school partnership or want to vary an existing arrangement, please complete the [School Foreign Arrangement Form](#) and [Sister School Memorandum of Understanding](#) and email both documents to ied.stakeholder.engagement@education.vic.gov.au, by 21 July 2023.

To learn more about the process, see: [Process Maps](#), or read the [FAQs](#) on our website.

Professional Development



Women in School Leadership 2023–24

Applications to apply to the department's Women in School Leadership (WISL) program 2023–24 are open for female principals from Victorian government schools. The fully subsidised program aims to grow links between Victorian and Indian schools and is included in [Victoria's India Strategy: Our Shared Future](#). The 2023–24 program will run for 6 months and use a blended learning approach, with reciprocal immersion experiences. Twelve Victorian principals will join the Indian education system for 10 days in October and November 2023. Twelve principals from India will join Victorian schools in April and May 2024.

To apply for the 2023–24 WISL program, submit an [expression of interest form](#) by 30 June 2023. The department will contact successful applicants by mid-July 2023. For more information on the program, refer to [Women in School Leadership](#), or email: global.learning.engagement@education.vic.gov.au

Global Competence Certificate for Australian educators

Value Learning is offering 20 Global Competence Certificate (GCC) partial scholarship places for teachers from across Australia to join Chinese counterparts over 4 weeks in July and August 2023.

GCC is a blended learning program that provides tangible global skills essential to live, work and make a real social impact around the world. It helps participants become more self-aware, grow their awareness of others and learn ways to suspend judgement and bridge across differences. With at-home modules (30-60 minutes per week) and weekly 90-minute live sessions via Zoom, this is a great and accessible professional development opportunity for educators of all levels.

To get to know and learn alongside Chinese educators who are interested in building intercultural connections, register your interest at: [GCC for Australian educators](#), by 20 June 2023.

Innovating for Student Engagement course – intake 2

The Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership (VATL) is currently accepting registrations from Victorian government secondary P-8, P-9 and P-12 school principals to participate in the Innovating for Student Engagement course. This opportunity is fully subsidised to help participants build students' capabilities and interests, and actively work with the physical, social and emotional needs of adolescents. The course offers workshops that explore contemporary approaches and research-informed innovation and includes a field-based inquiry bus tour to provide examples of innovative strategies in action.

For more information, or to register your interest in the course, visit: [VATL - Innovating for Student Engagement](#), by 20 July 2023.

For Students





Globally Engaged Learners Program: Project Global Citizen

Applications are open for the Project Global Citizen activity for students in Years 10 to 12. This activity is delivered to schools as part of the department's Globally Engaged Learners (GELs) program to enable international and local student collaborative problem-solving and enhance their understanding of different cultures and respectful interactions in our global society.

The Project Global Citizen is a virtual activity, which is live-facilitated and highly immersive. It offers two different options for students to choose from:

- **Project Global Citizen Bootcamp - 'The UN Environmental Challenge'**: a 4-week series of 1-hour sessions to allow students to learn and apply cultural competence and collaborate in cross-cultural teams to develop an idea that will change the world.
- **Project Global Citizen 4-Week Challenge – 'The Earthshot Prize Pitch'**: a 3-hour bootcamp to provide students the opportunity work with students from across the world to solve a challenge relating to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14.

This program has been successfully implemented at Monivae Secondary College and Wellington Secondary College, with six students who are eager to serve as ambassadors and share their program learnings with the next cohort in Term 3. To participate in future Project Global Citizen activities, contact: [Project Global Citizen](#), or email Deb Moran, Coordinator, Project Global Citizen at: coordinator@projectglobalcitizen.com

Victorian Young Leaders to China 2023 cohort 2

Limited spots are still available for schools to participate in the cohort 2 of the Victorian Young Leaders (VYL) to China program 2023. The 2023 VYL China cohort 1 participants successfully completed their two-week virtual journey earlier in June. The program was a great success and involved Year 9 students from 7 Victorian schools. This year's program featured live streaming excursions of Beijing, language exchange activities with students in Shanghai and a culture quest that brought augmented reality of the Great Wall of China into the

classroom. This provided participants with the opportunity to apply their cultural knowledge and problem-solving skills and collaborate with peers to complete 12 challenges as part of the program.

To express interest in the virtual program, email: global-learning.engagement@education.vic.gov.au, or book an information session, at: [VYL China information session](#).

Resources



Refugee Week (18 to 24 June) resources for schools

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Refugee Week is an annual celebration that informs the public about refugees and celebrates their contributions. This year's Australian Refugee theme, 'Finding freedom,' aims to highlight the experiences of refugees on their journeys to safety and freedom.

To access a suite of resources available for teaching staff to help foster empathy and encourage a safe and welcoming environment for students and families from refugee backgrounds, visit: [Schools – Refugee Week](#).

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Department of Education
International Education Division
80 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria Australia 3000

Contact us at: international@education.vic.gov.au

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