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## News



### From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the November and December edition of the Global Learning and Engagement (GL&E) newsletter.

This year, over 2,000 local students have participated in the department's GL&E programs and in doing so, connected with over 150 schools globally. The findings of a recent independent review of these programs found they acted as catalysts for a more globally engaged and collaborative student body, enhancing the educational experience for both local and international students.

Among highlights are the five Victorian government schools involved in the 2023 Connecting Schools with Indian Communities program. The schools were provided funding of up to \$25,000 to develop local partnerships and activities to strengthen engagement with local Indian diaspora. I'm delighted to share that schools have reported that their respective activities contributed to meaningful connections with the Indian community and assisted students to enhance their global citizenship and intercultural skills. You can find more details on the funded activities later in this newsletter.

The department is receiving an increased volume in requests from visiting delegations from overseas education jurisdictions to learn about and observe the work you are doing in schools. Recent visits have been made by Indian school leaders and representatives from the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education in China. Visiting delegations provide a great opportunity to showcase the Victorian education system, forge people-to-people links and cultural ties through knowledge sharing, and most importantly, celebrate that excellent work being done in government schools. Please contact the department if your school is interested in showcasing its work to visiting delegations.

A sincere thank you for your support of global learning and engagement programs in 2023 and your commitment to provision of these opportunities for your students and colleagues. We look forward to working with you again in 2024.



### Geelong Tech School: Global Design Challenge program 2023

Geelong Tech School delivered the department's Global Design Challenge in Term 3 and Term 4, 2023. The program was offered through Geelong Tech School's Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre to 96 Victorian students and 100 international students and was based on their highly successful program, Design for Humanity. The 6-week challenge provided an opportunity for local secondary students to collaborate with Hong Kong International School in Term 3 and The Grammar School Nicosia in Cyprus in Term 4 to create customised solutions to real world problems and community needs in difficult environments.



Participating students analysed case studies provided by industry partner Field Ready, around water scarcity, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, nutrition and health issues. Students used CAD software, Fusion 360 and 3D printers to prototype their cost-effective solutions to meet community needs. To read testimonials from participating students and schools, visit: [Global Design Challenge 2023 – Testimonials](#).

For information on upcoming GL&E opportunities through Tech Schools, contact: [global-learning.engagement@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:global-learning.engagement@education.vic.gov.au)

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## Model United Nations Conference 2023 program update

This year 243 Victorian secondary school students participated in simulated United Nations (UN) General Assembly debates as part of the department's Model UN Conference program, partnering with schools in China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Taiwan. The conferences were conducted in hybrid model and focused on the UN Development Goals (UNSDG), with Zero Hunger (UNSDG 2), Quality Education for All (UNSDG 4), Gender Equality (UNSDG 5), and Climate Action (UNSDG 13).



## Connecting Schools with Indian Communities 2023: School projects

The department's Connecting Schools with Indian Communities (CSIC) program 2023 supports the Victorian Government's 10-year strategy to strengthen Victoria's ties with India; Victoria's India Strategy: Our Shared Future. The program provides guidance and funding to schools to build activities and initiatives that support collaborative partnerships between schools, the Indian diaspora and the broader community. Funded schools have designed a community art gallery, introduced dance programs, established music education and mentoring programs, produced a Bollywood-genre film, and hosted a whole-school Yoga day, cultural excursions and an Indian night market.

To read more about the funded projects, visit: [CSIC program 2023](#).

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## Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award, Victorian Education Excellence Awards 2023

Werribee Secondary College has been awarded the prestigious 2023 Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award at the Victorian Education Excellence Awards (VEEA) ceremony.

The award recognises the school's excellence in global learning and engagement and providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Congratulations to all the VEEA winners, and well done to the dedicated staff at Werribee Secondary College for their contribution to bringing global perspectives to Victorian classrooms.

To read more about how the school is involved in global learning, visit: [VEEA 2023 – Werribee Secondary College](#).



## Women in School Leadership Program (WISL): Principal voice

The previous edition of the newsletter featured an article on the in-country immersion experience of the 12 Victorian school leaders selected to participate in the Women in School Leadership Program (WISL) 2023-24. In this edition, Donna Wright, a participating principal, shares her reflections on the program. Donna is Principal of Bandiana Primary School and recipient of the 2020 Australian Principal of the Year.

To read about her experience in the program, visit: [WISL - Principal voice](#).

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## Globally Engaged Learners: 2023 program highlights

In 2023, over 1100 Victorian students participated in the department's Globally Engaged Learners (GELs) program and connected with international students in Indonesia, China, India and Malaysia. The program equipped students with the skills and tools to collaborate effectively with international peers, understand cultural differences and inequalities and tackle locally relevant issues in a virtual environment. Below are highlights from the activities delivered as part of GELs this year:

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- **Global UP Teen - Global Competence Certificate**, consisted of 19 self-paced modules and 4 facilitated online sessions and covered topics such as metaphors of culture, stereotypes, suspending judgement, coping and being resilient, microaggressions and more.
- **Connect Global Youth Forums**, encouraged students to explore the UNSDGs and devise action plans.
- **Culture Quest**, a combination of 3D gaming, virtual reality, augmented reality and 360 Video where students immersed themselves in challenges set on the Great Wall of China.
- **The UN Environmental Challenge and Earthshot Prize Pitch**, where both Victorian and international students gained a valuable understanding of how their actions are perceived by individuals from different cultures through collaborative problem-solving activities based on global environmental challenges.
- **Global Citizenship Student Ambassador**, where young changemakers identified and tackled issues of concern to them. Students connected with community, educated others about their issue, undertook project planning and management and designed digital technology solutions to amplify their project impact and enact change.

For more information on the program, visit: [GELs](#).

## Professional Development



### Centre for Multicultural Youth: Training packages

The Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) offers comprehensive training and professional development solutions for school and corporate staff and practitioners to build cultural responsiveness and address Victoria's increasingly diverse population. The in-depth training packages explore the essential skills and knowledge required for effective work with young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and their families and communities.

To find training opportunities relevant to you, visit: [CMY training packages](#).

## For Students



### VICTORIAN YOUNG LEADERS TO CHINA PROGRAM

Live, learn, explore



### Expression of Interest: Virtual Victorian Young Leaders to China Program 2024

Expression of interest is open for schools to participate in the Victorian Young Leaders (VYL) to China virtual program 2024. The two-week language and culture intensive online program is designed for students in Years 9 to 10 to develop their global citizenship, leadership and intercultural capability and understanding.

The program will strengthen Chinese Language skills of the participants and will help them learn about China's traditional and contemporary culture through interactive cultural exchange activities. Student voice and agency will be enhanced through greater opportunities for collaboration and communication with Chinese peers and teachers and effective use of technology will allow students to apply their language skills, share perspectives and experiences with others.

The program will be delivered in Term 3, 2024 by Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) and Meg Languages.

To register your school's interest, complete the [VYL China EOI Form](#) by 20 December 2023 or email: [vylc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:vylc@education.vic.gov.au)

Successful schools will be notified of the outcome in Term 1, 2024.

# Resources



## Stand up and speak out against racism by Yassmin Abdel-Magied (2023)

Stand up and speak out against racism answers real children's questions about racism, giving them the confidence and the tools to work towards a fairer society for all. Through her friendly tone, the author creates a safe space for exploring this important topic and provides a fresh way for readers to approach this complex issue.

The **book** is available at the department's Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre to borrow.

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