



[News](#) | [Professional Development](#) | [For Students](#) | [Resources](#)

News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the July and August edition of the Global Learning and Engagement newsletter.

This year, Victoria is continuing to strengthen its sister-state partnership with Jiangsu Province, our longest and strongest bilateral relationship. A recent delegation from the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education met with senior executives from the department to discuss strengthening sister school visits, expanding student exchange opportunities, and sharing approaches to student wellbeing. The delegation also visited Brentwood Park Primary School and Alkira Secondary College to observe Victorian education in practice, with a focus on curriculum, student learning, teaching, and professional development. The visit highlighted the strong relationship between Victoria and Jiangsu and the commitment to working together in education.

I am also delighted to share highlights of the work underway to strengthen Victoria's global education connections. This includes a ministerial delegation from the Sarawak Government, Malaysia, and information on our two new initiatives that will provide women school leaders and First Nations students with global learning opportunities. The programs highlight the importance of leadership, intercultural understanding, and collaboration, while reflecting our commitment to excellence, equity, and diversity. These programs will open new opportunities, foster innovation in teaching and learning, and inspire Victorian students and educators to embrace global perspectives.



Jiangsu Sister School Welcome event 2025

The department's 2025 Jiangsu Sister School Welcome event was held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) last month, marking a highlight of Victoria's longstanding partnership with Jiangsu Province.

The event was attended by over 250 students and teachers from 12 Jiangsu schools that have sister school partnerships with Victorian government primary and secondary schools. The ceremony included a video

message from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, a warm welcome address from the department's A/Secretary, as well as student speeches from both jurisdictions demonstrating their remarkable language skills in English and Mandarin. The day also included a tour of the MCG and the Australian Sports Museum.

During the visit, students from Jiangsu also spent time at their Victorian sister schools and visited popular attractions across Victoria. Victorian students will visit their counterparts in Jiangsu later this year.

Strengthening global connections in early childhood education

The department recently hosted a ministerial delegation from the Sarawak Government, Malaysia. During their visit, the 16 delegates met with the acting secretary and senior executives from the Early Childhood Education Group to gain a deeper understanding of Victoria's early childhood education and care (ECEC) policies, governance structures, funding mechanisms and quality assurance frameworks. These insights will support the development of Sarawak's ECEC policy framework.

The delegation also visited Port Melbourne Uniting Kindergarten, Early Learning Victoria Muyan in Sunshine, and Port Phillip Specialist School to observe ECEC services in practice. The program provided a valuable platform for building connections, sharing knowledge, and strengthening international partnerships in early childhood education.



Indian students visit Melbourne for the Global Design Challenge

In August, students from SRM Public School, Chennai, India, visited the Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC) as part of the Global Design Challenge (GDC) program. Students explored DNA testing, food titration, cybersecurity, robotics, coding, sustainable design, and design thinking, applying their learning to real-world challenges in sustainability, urban planning, and wellbeing. The visiting group also visited Keysborough Secondary College and explored David Unaipon-inspired drones, traditional paperbark boats, and Aboriginal constellations in a homemade planetarium, with activities fostering reflection, teamwork, and global awareness.

Students shared their projects with His Excellency Dr Sushil Kumar, Consul General of India in Melbourne, whose presence offered encouragement and highlighted the importance of student creativity and global collaboration.

'This collaboration has opened avenues for design thinking and allowed children oceans apart to co-create ideas for sustainable and inclusive living. It's been a wonderful experience helping our students think globally and act locally,' Dr KR Maalathi, Advisor to SRM Public School said.

Victorian Young Leaders embark on a virtual cultural journey to China

The Victorian Young Leaders to China (VYLC) program took place this month involving 153 students from 16 Victorian schools. During the 2-week program, Year 9 and 10 students took part in virtual tours of the Great Wall of China and the streets of Tianjin, alongside cultural experiences such as Kung Fu, traditional Chinese painting, and cooking classes, hosted by Beijing Language and Culture University. The program also featured an in-person visit to the Museum of Chinese Australian History and Chinatown, with an Amazing Race style student experience.

To register for VYLC 2026, email: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au



Emerging Leaders Forum wraps up for 2025

This year's Emerging Leaders Forum has concluded, with 357 Victorian students and 220 students from 7 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

At the face-to-face workshop of the program held at the University of Melbourne, students from Years 5-6 and 7-8 cohorts across 8 Victorian schools shared their virtual collaboration experiences with peers in the Asia-Pacific region. They heard from inspiring guest speakers, including Mindy Meng Wang, showcased their impressive projects, and toured the University campus.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the program this year.

Victorian and Korean students connect through the 22nd APCEIU Photo Class

The Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), under UNESCO, is collaborating with the department and Northern College of the Arts and Technology on a short photography program, giving Korean and Victorian students the opportunity to learn together. The program is designed to promote international understanding through workshops on global citizenship, cultural exchanges and photography skills. Students will photograph Victoria's significant cultural and natural sites, culminating in an exhibition showcasing Korean and Victorian students' work on later in September.

For examples of APCEIU's past international collaborations, visit: [APCEIU Photo Class](#).

Professional Development



Applications open: Women Leading with Global Vision

Alumni of the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership's (the Academy) [Women Leading in Education](#) (formerly Women in Leadership) are invited to participate in a new program that supports schools to strengthen global learning and engagement. An optional immersive experience in India is also available as part of the program.

This tailored professional learning program is aligned with the department's priorities on excellence, equity, diversity, and global engagement and includes the following components:

- [Women Leading: Globally Engaged Schools](#): Extends leadership learning through the Global Learning and Engagement Framework, focusing on intercultural capability, global citizenship, and inclusive practices.

- [Women Leading: In-country Engagement \(India 2026\)](#): Optional immersive program in India (7-18 Feb) with school visits, cultural activities, and professional learning with Indian education leaders.

For more information, visit: [Women Leading with Global Vision](#).

Apply now: Refugee Education Support Program

Refugee Education Support Program (RESP) will be available to schools in 2026-27 and will work with a cluster of schools to identify and implement strategies to enhance achievement, engagement and wellbeing outcomes of students and families from refugee backgrounds. RESP offers schools a package that includes professional development, and expert mentoring to help them develop and implement an action plan.

RESP is delivered as a partnership between the Centre for Multicultural Youth and Foundation House. The program is fully funded by the department and is available to schools at no cost.

If you would like to discuss the program's suitability for your school, you can complete this [Expression of Interest form](#), and a RESP team member will be in touch with you. For more information, visit: [RESP](#).

For Students



Invitation to apply: Victorian Global Learning Awards 2026

The Victorian Global Learning Awards (VGLA) celebrate international student achievement and homestay families who go above and beyond in their care and support for international students.

Nominations for the 2026 awards open on Monday 1 September 2025. The awards will include new student leadership junior and middle secondary school categories.

For more information, refer to [VGLA](#), or email: international.marketing@education.vic.gov.au

Victorian Young Leaders First Nations pilot program

The department is offering a fully funded opportunity for First Nations students from the Koorie Academy of Excellence, enrolled to study Year 9 or 10 in 2026. The program includes both a Victorian immersion and an overseas learning experience that celebrates leadership, culture and connection.

Through a blend of online and face-to-face activities, students will strengthen their leadership, intercultural understanding and filmmaking skills, with a strong focus on self-determination in education. The program offers:

- **Victorian immersion:** a 5-day cultural and filmmaking program at Camp Jungai, Rubicon Valley (13–17 January 2026, during school holidays)
- **Overseas experience:** a 9-day educational visit to Aotearoa (New Zealand) from 21–29 March 2026.

For more information on how to apply contact: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

Resources





The benefits of a multilingual home

This ABC News article highlights the advantages of raising children in multilingual households. It features the story of Anu Goel, who, alongside her husband, chose to speak Punjabi and Hindi at home so their son could communicate with his grandparents in India. Now 12, their son Priyansh is fluent in both languages, as well as English, showing how early exposure to multiple languages can strengthen strong communication skills and cultural identity.

Dr Chloé Diskin-Holdaway from the University of Melbourne describes multilingualism as a ‘superpower,’ noting that children who develop their home language often learn additional languages more efficiently and experience cognitive and social benefits.

To view the full article, see: [ABC article](#).

OECD paper: How do the performance and wellbeing of students with an immigrant background compare across countries?

This OECD paper highlights how migration is reshaping classrooms globally. In 2015, nearly one in four 15-year-old students in OECD countries had an immigrant background. These students, especially first-generation immigrants, often face greater challenges in academic performance and wellbeing, including lower proficiency in core subjects, weaker sense of belonging at school, and higher anxiety. Despite these challenges, many show higher motivation to succeed.

Schools can play a vital role in supporting these students by providing language support, inclusive teaching, extra help for disadvantage learners, anti-bullying initiatives and family engagement. Together, these strategies strengthen both academic outcomes and wellbeing, helping students thrive in school and beyond.

To read the full policy paper, see: [OECD paper](#).

Follow us on social



Copyright © State Government of Victoria, Department of Education, 2025

Department of Education
International Education and Partnerships Division
200 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3002

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

[Subscribe to this newsletter](#)

To unsubscribe, contact: international.marketing@education.vic.gov.au