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News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

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

There are several key developments to share in this edition, including the opening of the expression of interest process for the 2027 Victorian Young Leaders First Nations program and the commencement of the 2026 Victorian Young Leaders to China program. These programs continue to create valuable opportunities for Victorian students to learn beyond the classroom and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. Further updates on both programs will be shared in future editions.

Additionally, Victoria's broader international education agenda continues to grow, with the launch of the new Study with Victoria Strategy. The strategy provides a whole-of-sector approach to enabling students from anywhere in the world to study in Victoria. Our work contributes to this agenda through initiatives including the Student Ambassador project, the Victorian Global Learning Awards, international student recruitment and our ongoing collaboration with Study Melbourne. I encourage schools to explore these opportunities and consider how international education and global learning can continue to enrich their students' experiences and strengthen connections with the wider world.



Victorian Young Leaders embark on a virtual cultural journey to China

The 2026 Victorian Young Leaders to China (VYLC) program commenced in August, with over 100 students from 13 Victorian schools. During the 2-week program, Year 9 and 10 students are taking part in virtual tours of the Great Wall of China and the streets of Tianjin, alongside cultural experiences such as Kung Fu, traditional Chinese paper-cutting, and calligraphy classes, hosted by Beijing Language and Culture University. The program also features an in-person visit to the Museum of Chinese Australian History and Chinatown, with an Amazing Race style student experience.

If your school is interested in participating in the 2027 VYLC program, email us at: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

Victorian Young Leaders First Nations 2025-26 student films

As part of the 2025-26 Victorian Young Leaders First Nations program, 17 students created 4 short films, exploring identity, leadership, culture and self-determination.

The films were developed through an on-Country learning experience with Māoriland Charitable Trust and Indigucation and were initially screened at the Māorilands Rangatahi International Film Festival in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The films were later screened at the National Gallery of Victoria as part of its NAIDOC Week celebrations, alongside works by prominent First Nations artists. The showcase attracted more than 2,800 visitors, giving students an opportunity to share their stories and perspectives with a wider Victorian audience.

The films are now available to be viewed online:

- Taken and Taking In
- Narnarthum
- Hold My Fire
- From Their Perspective



Indian students visit to Melbourne for the Global Design Challenge

In August, students from SRM Public School and Chettinadu Public School, Chennai, India, visited the Knox Innovation Opportunity & Sustainability Centre (KIOSC) as an extension of the virtual Global Design Challenge (GDC) program. They were joined by their GDC partner schools, Vermont Secondary College and Melbourne Girls College.

Over the 8-week program, students explored clean energy and sustainable alternatives, applying innovative thinking to design environmentally friendly eco-houses. At KIOSC, they gained hands-on experience with new technologies like UAVs (drones) and modular robotics systems. The students also collaborated on climate change solutions for India and Australia by examining the effects of building materials on temperature regulation.

Visiting students shared their learning with His Excellency Anish Rajan, Consul-General of India in Melbourne, whose presence highlighted the value of Victoria and India's education partnership.

Madeha, a student visiting from SRM Public School, said, "I've learned how to look at sustainability and innovation in a new light thanks to being part of this program." She told Victorian students that she hopes for more opportunities to work with them in the future.

International education delegations strengthen global learning connections

During July and August, the department and schools hosted several international delegations to strengthen partnerships and share best practice in Victorian schools with our global partners.

Recent visits have focused on a range of shared priorities. Delegations from South Korea explored approaches to supporting rural and regional schools and literacy education through visits to Docklands and South Melbourne Primary School, while educators from Japan visited Beaumaris Primary School and Caulfield Primary School to learn about multicultural education, lesson design and bilingual learning.

Representatives from China met with the department to discuss opportunities to strengthen education partnerships, including the Victorian Young Leaders to China (VYLC) program, VCE delivery in Sichuan, digital education, and language and intercultural learning. A delegation from Indonesia's Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education also

visited Harkaway Primary School, Upwey High School and Yarra Ranges Tech School to learn about climate change education, student agency, emergency management and innovation in skills-based learning, with discussions also exploring future collaboration on climate change education policy and practice.

These engagements continue to strengthen Victoria's international education partnerships while providing valuable opportunities for schools to showcase innovative teaching and learning.

Professional Development



Intercultural leadership in action

Schools can explore the impact of intercultural leadership through a new video featuring the participants from the 2025-26 Women Leading with Global Vision program. Hear how school leaders have strengthened their intercultural leadership, introduced new global learning initiatives and enhanced student learning and engagement across their school communities.

As part of the program, participants engaged with the Global Learning and Engagement Framework eLearn module that helped build their understanding of intercultural capability, global citizenship and inclusive practices. The video highlights how they have put these approaches into practice to create a more inclusive, globally connected learning environment.

The eLearn module is also available for schools interested in learning more about the Framework and strengthening global learning and engagement in their own practice.

For Students



2027 Victorian Young Leaders First Nations program

Applications will soon open for First Nations students from Victorian government schools to join the Victorian Young Leaders First Nations program in 2027. The program is open to students in Years 9 or 10 in 2027 and focuses on leadership, self-determination, culture and connection.

Through a blend of online and face-to-face activities, students will develop intercultural understanding and filmmaking skills, while learning from their peers and sharing experiences. The program includes:

- **Victorian immersion**: a 5-day cultural and filmmaking program at Phillip Island from 13 to17 January 2027, during school holidays
- **Overseas experience**: a 7-day cross-cultural visit to New Zealand from May 22 to May 29, 2027
- **Virtual program sessions**: to support connection and sharing of insights to promote intercultural understanding, leadership and reflection.

Teachers can also apply to supervise and have primary responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of the students throughout the two immersion experiences. We encourage Victorian government schools to identify eligible students and supervising teachers who may be interested in participating.

Schools, students and families are also encouraged to attend one of the upcoming information sessions to learn more about the program and application process. To register for an information session, visit: VYLFN information sessions.

Further information about the application process, including application forms, will be available on the website from 7 September. Applications close on 16 October 2026.

Nominations now open: 2026 Multicultural Youth Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Multicultural Youth Awards, organised by the Multicultural Youth Group (MYG). The awards celebrate young people aged 16 to 25 from multicultural, migrant, refugee and diverse cultural backgrounds who are making a meaningful impact across their communities.

Young people can be recognised for their leadership, volunteering, achievements in sport and the arts, advocacy, community involvement and the many ways they support and inspire others.

Anyone can nominate, including teachers, parents, youth workers, mentors, coaches, friends, community leaders and organisations. Young people can also nominate themselves.

Nominations close 31 August 2026. For more information, visit: MYG 2026.

Resources

New guide for schools: Respectful Relationships Education

Foundation House has developed a new guide to support schools in communicating with families from diverse backgrounds about the Respectful Relationships curriculum.

Developed in partnership with the department's Respectful Relationships team from the Hume Merri-bek region, the guide draws on input from schools and communities. It provides practical guidance for facilitating culturally safe and trauma-informed conversations about relationships and consent education, along with example responses to common questions from parents and carers.

The resource can support school staff in individual conversations with families as well as group information sessions, helping schools communicate with families confidently and support all students to benefit from Respectful Relationships education.

The guide and common questions are available on the Foundation House website.

Refugee Week 2026 teacher resources

The Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC) provides a range of resources to support schools in recognising and celebrating the multicultural diversity of their students and developing intercultural capability.

Some highlights include:

- Intercultural capability picture books – picture books that support conversations about culture, identity and diversity.

- Celebrations and festivals big books – resources exploring cultural celebrations and festivals from around the world.
- Intercultural capability – Primary fiction – fiction texts to support intercultural learning in primary settings.
- Intercultural capability – Lower secondary fiction – fiction resources suited to lower secondary students.
- Intercultural capability – Upper secondary fiction – fiction texts supporting intercultural learning in the senior years.

These resources provide opportunities for teachers to incorporate diverse perspectives and experiences into classroom learning and support the development of intercultural capability across different year levels.

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

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

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