



[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. I hope you enjoyed a refreshing Term 2 break and Term 3 is progressing well.

This year, we are celebrating Victoria's 45-year sister-state partnership with Jiangsu Province – our longest and strongest bi-lateral relationship. We are hosting several events this year that bring together students and school staff from Jiangsu and Victoria to share good practices in education and develop new sister school partnerships. As part of this, we recently welcomed a delegation of school teaching staff from Jiangsu to learn about student wellbeing, school curriculum and teaching resources, along with our schools' approach to learning, teaching, assessment, and professional development. A big thanks to Camberwell High School, Brentwood Park Primary School, Bridgewood Primary School, Serpell Primary School, Alkira Secondary College, Officer Secondary College, and Victoria University Secondary College for hosting this delegation.

Additionally, the Jiangsu Sister School Welcome event was recently held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). More information about this event is available in the newsletter.

I would also like to express my thanks to schools that visited the International Education Division stall at the recent Government Schools Principals Conference. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss and provide details about the various global learning and engagement programs available through the department. In support of your efforts to equip students with the necessary skills for a globalised world, we have created a [brochure](#) featuring our 2024 programs. Please consider sharing this resource with your networks.

---



#### **Jiangsu Sister School Welcome event 2024**

As part of Victoria's partnership with Jiangsu Province, the department hosted our first Jiangsu Sister School Welcome event since 2019 at the MCG last month. The event was attended by approximately 250 students and teachers including 11 Jiangsu schools who have recently formed sister school partnerships with 7 Victorian government primary and secondary schools, and included speeches from the department's Secretary, Jenny Atta and Deputy Secretary for School Education Programs and Support, Stephen Fraser, and students from Jiangsu and Victoria. Following official proceedings, students enjoyed a tour of the MCG and the Australian Sports Museum and shared lunch. During the visit, students from Jiangsu spent time at their Victorian government sister schools as well as attractions across Victoria. The Victorian students will be visiting their sister school counterparts in Jiangsu later this year.

---

#### **Victorian Young Leaders to China virtual program 2024**

The 2024 Victorian Young Leaders (VYL) to China virtual two-week program took place from Monday 5 to Friday 16 August. It was delivered by Beijing Language Culture University (BLCU) and Meg Languages on behalf of the department and brought together 97 students from 12 Victorian schools and around 50 students from Jiangsu, China.

The two-week intensive language and culture program included immersive language lessons, active culture workshops, exciting virtual excursions, and authentic peer communication with high-school students in Jiangsu. A key highlight was the Culture Quest activity, where students explored a virtual Great Wall of China, completed tasks showcasing Chinese traditions and modern life, and interacted with Chinese peers and teachers in an engaging, gamified learning experience.

The program was oversubscribed and was such a success that multiple students were crying when it ended! A great reminder of the life-changing impact these programs can have on students.

For more information, see: [VYL China 2024](#).



#### **Highlights from the 2024 Global Design Challenge Hong Kong**

The department is partnering with Victorian Tech Schools and STEM Centres to launch five Global Design Challenge (GDC) programs for secondary students in 2024. The programs are aligned with the Victorian Curriculum, and each partner with a school offshore focusing on either clean energy technology, health, digital games, waste and resource recovery.

The five different GDC's include:

- GDC Hong Kong – Gippsland Tech School
  - GDC India – Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC)
  - GDC Sri Lanka – Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC)
-

- GDC Vietnam – Wyndham Tech School
- GDC Indonesia – Banyule Nillumbik Tech School.

GDC Hong Kong delivered by Gippsland Tech School took place over three consecutive days in June and brought together students, teachers and industry professionals to create innovative solutions to real-world environmental problems using online technologies. Students from the following three schools across Hong Kong and Victoria participated in the program:

- Nagle College (Victoria)
- Maffra Secondary College (Victoria)
- HKSKH Bishop Hall Secondary School (Hong Kong).

The 13 solutions ‘pitches’ presented by students highlighted their creativity and problem-solving skills. Students collaborated on issues of global significance in the renewables sector.

For further information about the program, visit: [Global Design Challenges 2024](#).

---

### **Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2024**

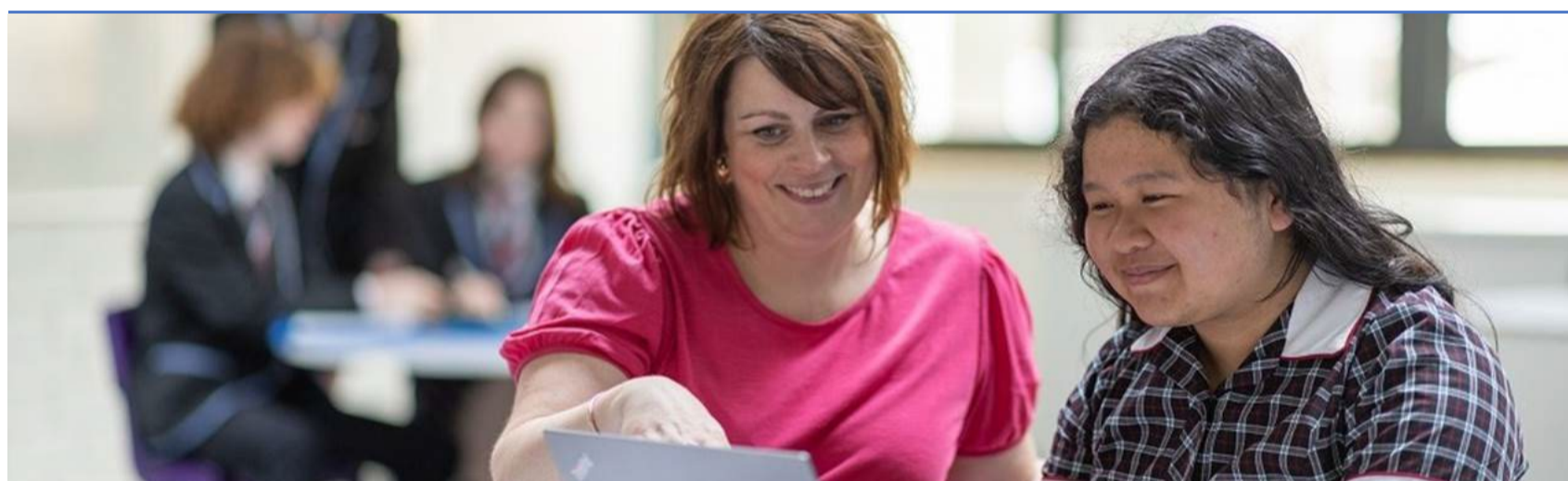
Nominations for the annual Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence are open until 8 September, to honour individuals and organisations that promote cross-cultural understanding and support the full inclusion of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Victoria.

This year’s Awards includes 14 categories covering the Arts, Business & Employment, Emergency Services, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Sport, Youth Leadership, the Multicultural Honour Roll and the Premier’s Award for Community Harmony.

If you or someone you know has positively impacted Victoria’s multicultural communities, nominate them today at: [Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence](#).

---

## **Professional Development**



### **Eye-opening: How we can use multimodal texts with school staff to support more inclusive school and classroom narratives**

Vic Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (VicTESOL) is offering a professional learning opportunity for school staff to discover innovative ways to support diverse student needs and foster a more engaging learning environment. This professional learning session, informed by recent research, offers an opportunity for school staff to collaboratively engage in an EAL-focused activity. Participants will gain insights into practical strategies to bring back to their educational setting, fostering more comprehensive discussions about the experiences of diverse language learners.

To register, visit: [VicTESOL](#).

---

### **Culturally Responsive Practice**

---

The Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) is offering Culturally Responsive Practice sessions to explore the essential skills and knowledge required for effective work with young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. This in-depth training includes two modules:

- Part 1 – Culturally Responsive Youth Practice
- Part 2 -Young People and Settlement

To learn more and register, visit: [CMY](#).

## For Students



### Nominations open for the 2025 Victorian Global Learning Awards

Applications for the 2025 Victorian Global Learning Awards (VGLA) are now open. The awards celebrate the academic excellence and outstanding extra-curricular achievements of Victoria's Years 11 and 12 international school students. They also recognise homestay families for their high-quality support and non-government schools for their outstanding global learning and engagement. This year introduces the new 'Innovation Award' to recognise international students excelling in innovation-related subjects and extra-curricular activities.

Nominations close on **Friday 13 September 2024**. If your school has not applied in the past but would like to participate, please contact us at: [international.marketing@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:international.marketing@education.vic.gov.au)

For selection criteria and information on how to apply, see: [VGLA](#).

---

### Global Youth Forum 2024 – registrations open

Applications for the Global Youth Forum (GYF) program is now open, giving Victorian Year 9 students the chance to connect with peers in the Asia-Pacific region. Students deepen their understanding of the impacts of globalisation in different parts of the world and how communities are responding.

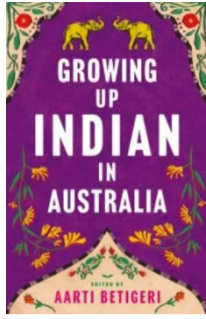
There are two cohorts of GYF forums running in 2024. To express interest in either of the forums and get more information on the program structure, key dates and activities, visit the following links:

- [cohort 1](#) - registrations close on **5 pm Friday 20 September**
- [cohort 2](#) - registrations close on **5 pm Friday 1 November**

For questions, contact: [global.learning@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:global.learning@education.vic.gov.au)

## Resources





### **Growing Up Indian in Australia - edited by Aarti Betigeri**

The book 'Growing Up Indian in Australia' explores the Indian community's experiences in Australia, offering insights into cultural, social, and historical contexts. The book features contributions from Australian-Indian writers, both established and emerging, who hail from a wide range of backgrounds, religions and experiences. This colourful, energetic anthology offers reflections on identity, culture, family, food and expectations, revealing deep truths about both Australian and Indian life.

[Growing Up Indian in Australia](#) is available at the department's Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre to borrow.

---

### **Valerie Hannon says we need to question what learning is – podcast**

In a recent podcast episode, Valerie Hannon highlights the need for educational systems and leaders to adapt beyond traditional models. The discussion offers fresh perspectives on how we can better adapt educational practices to meet the needs of students. This episode is a valuable resource for teachers looking to explore new ideas and enhance their approach to education.

Listen to the full conversation, visit: [Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership](#).

---

### **Follow us on social**



*Copyright © State Government of Victoria, Department of Education, 2024*

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

**Contact us at:** [international@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:international@education.vic.gov.au)

[Subscribe to this newsletter](#)

[Unsubscribe from this list](#)

**GLOBAL LEARNING  
AND ENGAGEMENT**

**THE  
EDUCATION  
STATE**

**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government  
Australia