

News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

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

It's been a significant period across our global learning programs, with some key milestones to acknowledge.

We have now seen the successful completion of the first cohort of the Victorian Young Leaders First Nations program, with students completing post-program learning following their cultural immersion in Aotearoa. The program has recently been recognised with the Secretary's Marrung Award in the Community Engagement category, acknowledging its contribution to strengthening First Nations education. This recognition reflects the strength of the program and the commitment of all those involved in its delivery, including the Koorie Outcomes Division, Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated and colleagues who provided invaluable guidance throughout program planning and delivery. Planning is now underway for the next delivery of the program, with further details to be shared in upcoming editions.

In other positive news, the Victorian Global Learning Awards (VGLA) ceremony was held in May to recognise the achievements of international students, schools and homestay families, and their important role in building vibrant and inclusive school communities across Victoria. The awards highlight not only individual student excellence, but also the broader contribution international students make to enriching classroom learning and strengthening intercultural understanding in Victorian schools. A student story featuring this year's International Student of the Year – Ambassador Award recipient, is included later in this newsletter.



Victorian Young Leaders First Nations student films at the National Gallery of Victoria

Short films created by the students who participated in the Victorian Young Leaders First Nations Program have been selected for screening at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). The program, which has recently been awarded the Secretary's Marrung award in the Community Engagement category, supports First Nations education and cultural learning.

Developed through an on-Country learning experience and later showcased at the Māoriland Rangatahi International Film Festival in Aotearoa New Zealand, the films reflect Indigenous ways of knowing, being and storytelling. They share powerful perspectives on culture, community and leadership through a First Nations lens.

The screening will take place on Saturday **11 July** from 10am-5pm and is free and open to the public. It will offer visitors the opportunity to experience First Nations voices and perspectives through films created by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people from across Victoria. Further information is available on the NGV website.

Hong Kong education delegation explores Victoria's global learning and partnership opportunities

The International Education and Partnerships Division, in collaboration with Global Victoria, recently hosted a delegation of school principals and senior education officers from the Education Division of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs).

TWGHs is one of Hong Kong's largest and most established non-government education providers, with a longstanding commitment to holistic education and social responsibility.

The delegation's visit to Victoria aimed to foster international exchange and professional dialogue, drawing on best global practices in educational leadership and exploring innovative and sustainable education models that can be adapted to the Hong Kong context.

Delegates learned about Victoria's global learning programs and were particularly interested in the participation of other Hong Kong schools in the Global Design Challenge, as well as opportunities to engage in upcoming programs.

A key priority for the delegation is establishing sister-school partnerships with Victorian schools. These partnerships provide opportunities for meaningful, reciprocal and sustainable long-term collaboration that supports shared learning and mutual goals.

Victorian schools interested in forming a sister-school partnership with a Hong Kong school, or a school from another international jurisdiction, are encouraged to email: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au



Celebrating excellence in global learning

East Doncaster Secondary College's 2025 Dux, Richard, has been recognised as one of Victoria's most outstanding international students, receiving the prestigious 2026 VGLA International Student of the Year – Ambassador Award, alongside the 2026 Academic Excellence Award (Year 12).

The International Student of the Year – Ambassador Award celebrates not only academic achievement but also leadership, community engagement, and the ability to represent Victoria's international student community. Richard's journey highlights the opportunities available to students who choose to study in Victoria and the pathways that can lead from Victorian schools to some of Australia's leading universities.

Achieving an exceptional ATAR of 99.65, Richard's success reflects his dedication, resilience, and commitment to learning and personal growth. Now studying a Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne, he is continuing to pursue his passion for learning whilst also being an incredible role model for future international students.

International students like Richard contribute to the richness of school communities by bringing global perspectives that support all students to learn in a more globally connected context. Recognising their achievements is also

important as they inspire others to pursue their goals and demonstrate what can be achieved through perseverance and hard work.

To learn more about Richard, visit his bio page on our website and watch his video story.

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).

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 14 August 2026.

To learn more about the process, see: process maps, or read the FAQs on our website.

Professional Development

Leading a Globally Engaged School session at the 2026 Government Schools Principals Conference

At the 2026 Government Schools Principals Conference held in May, the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership and the International Education and Partnerships Division delivered a session titled Leading a Globally Engaged School.

The session was underpinned by the Global Learning and Engagement Framework which outlines 6 dimensions to help schools measure the integration of global learning and engagement.

The workshop provided school leaders with an opportunity to reflect on current approaches to global learning and engagement across their school community and explore practical strategies to strengthen intercultural capability, global connections and whole-school approaches.

To learn more about how the Global Learning and Engagement Framework can support practice in your school, complete the eLearn module.

For Students



Victorian Young Leaders China 2026 update

The 2026 Victorian Young Leaders to China (VYLC) program will be held in Term 3, from 24 August to 4 September.

During the 2-week program, Year 9 and 10 students will take part in virtual experiences, including tours of the Great Wall of China and the streets of Tianjin, alongside cultural activities such as Kung Fu, calligraphy, and traditional paper cutting, delivered in partnership with Beijing Language and Culture University. The program also includes an in-person visit to the Museum of Chinese Australian History and Chinatown, with an Amazing Race-style student experience.

For more information about the program, see: VYLC 2026.

Resources



Supporting intercultural learning through Treaty resources

During Reconciliation Week and the election of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC) curated a Treaty LearnPath that guides students to key resources and media that support understanding of Treaty, self-determination and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.

Some highlights include:

- What can schools do now? – a poster developed for Reconciliation Week that continues to support staff in better supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, families and communities in achieving self-determination in education.
- Possum skin statements – a poster for display in schools outlining what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in education want their teachers and schools to know about their experiences.

LMERC also provides a range of resources to support teaching the Cross-Curriculum Priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, including 9 reading lists featuring Aboriginal fiction, poetry and primary texts, supporting the development of intercultural capability in schools. To access these resources, visit: LMERC.

Refugee Week

Refugee Week 2026 teacher resources

Refugee Week provides an opportunity for school communities to recognise and celebrate the contributions, resilience and experiences of people from refugee backgrounds. This includes acknowledging the skills, strengths and aspirations that students, families and staff from refugee backgrounds bring to Victorian schools and the broader community.

Following the Second World War, Australia signed an agreement to resettle 4,000 refugees from Central Europe. To date, Australia has issued one million permanent humanitarian visas. This year's theme, A Million Stories, celebrates the unique stories behind each one and highlights how these individual journeys and experiences shape refugee communities and contribute to Australian society.

Teachers are encouraged to use the Refugee Week Teacher Resource Kit to support classroom and school-based activities that build understanding of refugee experiences and celebrate the contributions of refugee communities.

The resource kit provides practical ideas, discussion prompts and learning activities to support student engagement and can be used to support ongoing learning about inclusion, diversity and community connection in schools.

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GLOBAL LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

VICTORIA State Government Australia