



# **2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

Inner Eastern  
Local Learning  
and Employment  
Network



# JOINT CHAIRPERSON AND CEO REPORT

**Angela Stathopoulos**  
Chairperson

**Andrew Neophytou**  
CEO



The Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network (IELLEN) has been a key local presence since 2002, and 2017 marked 15 years of work that made a difference. Largely funded by the Victorian government the IELLEN is one of 31 such organisations across Victoria which work in partnership with schools, business and with community organisations for the benefit of young people. We broker and support partnerships, facilitate or co-ordinate projects, services, and resources, and we support numerous community activities and initiatives.

In recent years the IELLEN has grown in influence and impact, beyond actual staffing and funding levels. Our achievements are noteworthy, our work comprehensive. 2017 may be considered an exceptional year. How many other organisations devoted limited resources to such wide ranging concerns, needs and issues, to young people who are carers, to LGBTIQ+ youth, to students with specific learning needs; to career education activities and to health and well being? And how many other small organisations provide services in structured workplace learning, in youth and family support, yet also contribute to capacity building among stakeholders, and lead a regional strategic partnership?

In 2017 we successfully delivered on three contracts with the Department of Education and Training, and a fourth with the Australian Drug Foundation. Our thanks for these great efforts go firstly to an outstanding staff team, led by the CEO, who enters his fourth year at the helm.

This team (who are now working into the new year of 2018) comprises Dennis Cindric, Tom Rankin, Tracey Fenton and Amy Liddy. Last year we wrote how fortunate we were to have such a highly skilled and talented group – this is still our view. The work of the CEO and staff continues to be supported by an engaged, informed – and long-term Committee of Management which consistently provides sound governance and support. Thank you!

To all stakeholders across various sectors – schools and education providers; community organisations; business and industry; LGAs – we acknowledge your genuine interest in supporting young people to have better futures, and we praise your willingness to working in partnership and collaboration to achieve this outcome.

We believe that good organisations do more than good work. They also need to ensure they can continue doing good work over time. Now in our sixteenth year the IELLEN is devoting organisational time, energy and resources to consistent commitment of purpose. Hopefully we are viewed as exerting some influence on broader, community actions. Certainly we support a collective voice; “collective impact.” The IELLEN is active in complementary programs and initiatives – in our region this includes Education State programs such as Navigator, and School Focused Youth Service, as well as the Youth Engagement Partnership and also community change processes such as Communities that Care, Stonnington.

The IELLEN will continue to recognise and support all relevant stakeholders and community networks. The IELLEN will continue to raise our voice when required, and to resource, internally or externally, any good work. We hope to continue to be a key, active player in the region, and on a broader scale, continue to support our peak bodies and important campaigns they run. Leading or supporting, we will play our part in building better futures for young people.

# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



Holly Carpenter

Jessica Lawrence

Bronwen Thompson

Angela Stathopoulos

Ross Digby

Sam Joukadjian

Gary Buckeridge

## 2017 IELLEN KPIs

02

- To broker sustainable partnerships that support schools to identify and provide the support, education options and pathways to enable those young people to remain in education.
- To broker sustainable partnerships that support the broader community to provide support, educational options and pathways to enable those young people to re-engage and remain in education.

In 2017 the IELLEN met all its intended outcomes across all Strategic Actions linked to the KPIs. This report provides a summary of this work.

### NAMES

**Angela Stathopoulos**  
Chairperson

**Holly Carpenter**  
Committee Member

**Bronwen Thompson**  
Deputy Chairperson

**Marisa Uwarow**  
Committee Member

**Gary Buckeridge**  
Secretary

**Cherry Grimwade**  
Committee Member

**Sam Joukadjian**  
Treasurer

**Jessica Lawrence**  
Committee Member

**Ross Digby**  
Committee Member

With the equivalent of 2.5 staff,  
**the IELLEN achieved great results during 2017**

**23**

The IELLEN led or supported partnerships, networks, projects or committees

**110**

People attended 2 key IELLEN events forum with Proud 2 Play and Annual Awards



**1,900**

Viewed our clips on the IELLEN YouTube channel

**70**

Stakeholders were engaged with schools, not-for-profits, employers, peak bodies and LGAs



**150**

Young people directly benefited from our Career and Education Programs, our Young Carers and Learning Mentor Programs



**22,000**

Were reached through IELLEN facebook page



# PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

## LGBTIQ+ YOUTH PARTNERSHIP PROUD 2 PLAY



The IELLEN established a partnership with Proud 2 Play, a not for profit organisation with a focus on young people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and this cohort's low rate of participation in sport and exercise. This partnership was informed by data and research on LGBTIQ+ youth related to self-harm, bullying, depression, and increased risk of disengagement from education. Our partnership's first joint activity was a forum, promoted to PE teachers and school wellbeing staff, and was held 20 September. Speakers secured for the event were from Proud 2 Play; Victoria University's Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (SEAL); Minus 18; and Parents of Gender Diverse Children.

40 attendees heard from this panel of informed speakers on strategies to improve the cohort's participation in school sport and exercise, and to increase inclusion and school engagement. Attendees heard an overview of research on LGBTIQ+ youth in PE. For example, physical abuse being prevalent, casual homophobia reported for most. It was clear that homophobia has significant negative mental health outcomes for young people.

Speakers addressed the role of PE teachers in LGBTIQ+ inclusion, and the need to address gender issues, and about the role of a parent and the family in supporting young trans and gender diverse young people in PE. One speaker said "access to Sport + PE is crucial for young trans and gender diverse children so they can socialise with other young people...

the majority want to just play sport and participate and play with their friends." This was highlighted by our final speaker, Rory Blundell from Minus 18 and Drummond Street Services, who said "finding a safe space and actual place to play sport and compete was really hard for me. Access to inclusive opportunities was limited"

The forum was a success, with tangible outcomes. It has led to School Sports Victoria proposing to re-write its gender inclusion (specifically gender diversity) policies, with Proud 2 Play in negotiation to assist. Safe Schools (which had a representative attend the forum) has had follow up consultation with Proud 2 Play and the IELLEN. The City of Stonnington is considering running an LGBTIQ+ and multicultural diversity day for local sporting clubs. And a number of schools have had follow up consultations with Proud 2 Play.

Young people in the LGBTIQ+ communities must not be overlooked, and more needs to be done by schools, and by not for profits. The work of organisations such as Proud 2 Play, and others, does matter, and the IELLEN will continue to promote partnerships work in this area.

## LEARNING MENTOR PROGRAM



### 04

A key School 2 Community Partnership of 2017 took the form of a Learning Mentor Program which was delivered in two schools (one primary, one secondary) within the City of Stonnington. The aim of the program was to support student engagement with literacy and numeracy learning activities (specifically those identified as being at risk of disengaging and/or who have low levels of literacy and numeracy but who are not funded to receive PSD funding to provide a teacher's aide).

A number of factors distinguished this Program from any like it. Firstly, the source of Mentors. The IELLEN formed partnerships with tertiary providers to recruit students on placement from their cohort of students undertaking a Diploma or Bachelor of Youth Work to undertake the role of Learning Mentor. This cohort was identified as being more likely to have an understanding of issues faced by at risk students. The IELLEN also partnered with SFYS which through the DET, provided funding. We acknowledge the tertiary institutions and SFYS for their contribution in making this unique program happen!

The IELLEN provided initial and ongoing training and supervision to mentors with a focus on understanding of, and strategies for supporting student engagement with learning i.e. building self-esteem and resilience, literacy support strategies and addressing issues related to working with vulnerable students. The program then worked in partnership with Windsor Primary and with Prahran Community Learning Centre (PCLC) whereby staff supported the identification of students to participate in the program.

One young person was matched with a mentor at PCLC and provided one-on-one support for three hours a week in class over one term. Twelve students participated from Windsor Primary. Mentors were assigned a small group of 6 students and supported them over one term for 8 hours a week both one-on-one and within small groups. Mentors collaborated with class room teachers to ensure that learning tasks were optimised for the students. Final evaluations show that staff appreciated support to free them up to deal with students with more challenging behaviour. In addition, teachers and mentors reported the development of a positive mentor/mentee relationship.

By the end of the year, not only had we delivered a modest but successful program, but in addition a useful guide for education providers which may be interested in establishing similar programs.

## YOUNG CARERS PROJECT

For the last few years the IELLEN has been at the forefront of partnership work to support carers. We've led partnerships to support grandparents and kinship carers, and also to support young carers. In 2017 we focused our efforts on the latter, with the introduction of a new project.

This work was unique and innovative. Focusing on psycho-education activities, the Young Carers Support Project's overall aim was to address disengagement and provide strategies and resources to improve positive school engagement. Well-being school staff across our catchment were invited (during term 2) to refer students to the Young Carer project. A response from Presentation College Windsor (PCW) led us to develop a program for a number of their enrolled students, ie caring for either parents or siblings.

The Young Carers project established in partnership with this school, commenced during term 3, with participants co-designing the content to ensure that their aspirations and needs were met through the activities. Up to 8 students regularly attended activities, with a group meeting fortnightly (with sessions held at the school, alternating with off-site activities / excursions. Project delivery was determined by timetable restraints, young carer's availability and activities to be undertaken by the group. The project ran over the term, and into school holidays.

We're pleased to add that final evaluations, with school staff and with students, were very positive, with students reporting more engagement with staff. Like our Learning Mentor Program, our learnings from the Young Carers Project also led to the preparation of a support manual for schools and community services which might like to establish a project for this still often hidden cohort. We would like to gratefully acknowledge funding received through the Department of Education and Training, through SFYS, which made this project possible.

## CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

During 2017 the IELLEN continued its commitment to working with schools, and other providers, to promote Career Engagement and "lifelong learning". We offered a suite of tailored services, all underpinned with the view to help build the capacity of schools, and education and training providers, to support students at risk of disengagement, and to improve and maintain levels of engagement. Our suite of services were further designed to assist young people make further study and career decisions.

For example over the past twelve months we organised a range of activities, including workplace visits, in partnership with schools, community organisations and business. Two visits, focusing on hospitality, were conducted to local businesses. One was organised with clients participating in Launch Housing's You Only Live Once (YOLO) program, and another with students from Melbourne City Mission's Hospitality Engagement and Training (HEAT) program. The latter resulted in a relationship being formed between MCM and the participating business, where MCM is notified of (and students encouraged to apply for) positions vacant. A further visit organised included one to radio station 3AW, for another group of participants of Launch Housing's YOLO program, one which focused on audio production and media.



In 2017 a partnership was established with Swinburne Senior Secondary College and with local businesses, which resulted in several workplace visits for Year 11 and 12 students during term 3. Industry areas were identified in consultation with school staff and students, and the IELLEN facilitated a range of businesses and organisations hosted visits – eg local council, and an audio production company. As a result students gained insight into industry areas such as community services, arts and culture, media production.





Another example of a workplace visit was one for students undertaking VCAL studies at Montague Continuing Education Centre, and this took the form of an excursion to a furniture manufacturing and distribution company, IMG, to learn more about warehousing / logistics. Like the arrangement with Swinburne SSC, this activity reflected the expressed needs of the school and its students.



A variation of the workplace visit were the excursions we arranged to RTOs, specifically TAFE colleges. For example we met a request from Albert Park Secondary College for a group of year 10 students to tour Holmesglen Institute. A successful "trade training and career taster" morning – focusing on carpentry, joinery and shop fitting and bricklaying – was arranged by the IELLEN.

In addition to these range of visits, the IELLEN was able to provide support to school "work readiness" programs. We established a partnership with Elwood College and recruited a dozen volunteer professionals from a range of industries, who conducted mock job interviews with approximately one hundred students. Feedback from the school means this activity is likely to occur again in 2018.

Indeed, evaluations completed by participants of workplace visits, have been uniformly favourable, and feedback from employers similarly positive. As these career education services have endorsement from all concerned, the IELLEN will continue to offer this tailored suite of services.

As a footnote, the IELLEN is also in partnership with Boroondara Youth Services, and a number of secondary schools in that LGA, to deliver a pathway planning/career

event in 2018. The proposal in development is for a (one day) student pathways forum, to cater for at least fifty students. We look forward to this event, which will also draw on business and industry, and further training providers, for input.

## LOCAL DRUG ACTION TEAM PROJECT



In 2017 the IELLEN established and co-ordinated a social/ community learning project promoting social inclusion. The "Local Drug Action Team" (LDAT) project, largely funded through the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF), is a new project building partnerships that focus on primary prevention work. Our LDAT project was funded for a particular geographic area, the City of Stonnington, to work on public housing estates, particularly Horace Petty in South Yarra. The IELLEN brought together partnership members (Pahran Community Learning Centre, Odyssey Victoria, Star Health and Victoria Police) all of which had committed to work together on developing community-driven, evidence informed approaches to strengthen protective factors against Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) misuse.

As the LDAT project lead, the IELLEN, through referrals from Victoria Police, worked with LDAT partners to engage children and young people in education, provide links to adult education programs for parents / carers and to build resilience to prevent the progression to problematic AOD drug use in people who are high risk of doing so. The project was supported through the ADF which is providing training about implementation and evaluation processes.

The Stonnington LDAT received referrals from the Family Violence Unit of VicPol, with the IELLEN working with families to provide suitable support and links to local community providers. It is fair to say this ongoing project has had its challenges – we are working with families often with multiple barriers and entrenched disadvantage. This partnership with VicPol has, in our view, been successful, as we strive to work together to support local vulnerable families. It should be added that working closely with VicPol staff has provided us with leads to other support services and other new potential project ideas.

## INNER METRO YOUTH & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

In the 2017 Strategic Plan the IELLEN stated that it would facilitate at least one regional community partnership. In fact we facilitated four partnerships in 2017.

For the past five years the IELLEN has overseen (and chaired meetings of) the Inner Metro Youth & Community Partnership (or IMYCP). The IMYCP aims to build the capacity of organisations/ providers, and to develop new and/or strengthened partnerships among organisations/providers to identify young people who have disengaged from education (and those at risk). IMYCP members comprise twenty stakeholders – LGAs; not for profit community organisations / training providers, and others, with support from (via regular meeting attendance) policy staff of peak bodies, YACVic, VCOSS, CFECFW, and CHP. In 2017, seven meetings were held of the Partnership. As Convenor, the IELLEN facilitated presentations which showcased key new DET programs: Navigator, Respectful Relationships and Safe Schools. IMYCP meetings also highlighted – and included presentations – by CHP (on youth homelessness), by the Office for Youth (on state Youth Policy, the Youth congress), and on specific issues such as homelessness in the LGBTI community.

Discussion and information shared at meetings impacts on and influences thinking across a range of stakeholders, including government departments. Indeed, it might be argued that IMYCP has remained the only network of its kind: devoted to broader strategic, policy and advocacy issues; attracting representation from five LGAs; and with updates from up to four state's peak bodies.


## LGA NETWORK

Arising out of past work of the IMYCP, the IELLEN facilitated a regional community partnership for inner metropolitan LGAs / Middle Years and Youth Services. In 2017 a group of representatives (eg Youth Service Co-ordinators) from Stonnington, Port Phillip, Boroondara, Yarra and Melbourne, agreed to meet at least quarterly. By mid-year a sixth LGA (Moonee Valley) expressed interest in the network, and attended our November meeting. The purpose of the network was to help build capacity of LGA Youth Services (eg through sharing of information), as well as to support the work being done by these LGAs in relation to the middle years. Both strategic and operational matters have been addressed in meetings. Plans are to continue the partnership into 2018.

## PROVIDERS WORKING WITH DISENGAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Directory of Services  
**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & TRANSITION PROGRAMS**  
(Inner South East and Inner Metro)

This directory has been produced by the Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network (IELLEN). This directory outlines the State and Federal Government funded youth employment, education and transition programs available for young people in the IELLEN catchment – Stonnington, Port Phillip and Boroondara. Information is current as of February 2018.



**JOBS LAND & ECONOMY PROGRAM (JLEP)**

Employment program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Young People assisting with:

- Employment advice and mentoring.
- Resume, cover letter writing and interview preparation.
- Developing life and practical skills.
- Connection to other supports and programs within community.

**PROVIDER: AFL SPORTSREADY**  
Age: 15 - 20.  
Service Region: State-wide.  
Contact Details:

**A. EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS**

Eligibility Criteria:

- Identify as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander.
- Not engaged in employment or education or about to finish education and training.

**PROVIDER: WHITELION**  
Age: 15 - 24.  
Service Region: Melbourne Metro.  
Contact Details:

In late 2016 the IELLEN established a partnership which brought together providers which hold state and/or federal contracts for programs that support disengaged youth (aged 15 and over). These providers continued to meet again in 2017. They largely comprised those holding contracts to deliver (the state) Reconnect or JVEN programs, and/or (the federal) Transition to Work or Empowering Youth initiatives. Representatives from the Australian Department of Human Services (Centrelink) also attended meetings. Like IMYCP, this network exceeded expectations with regards to the number of members, and improving connections amongst them. Aside from bringing them together, the IELLEN prepared and distributed a draft service directory of these programs for comment, with a view to producing a resource in early 2018, for wider distribution.

## (YOUTH) SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

The IELLEN also identified a growth in the number and scope of Social Enterprises that support, train or employ disengaged young people within our catchment or neighbouring areas. The IELLEN established and convened an inaugural meeting of a Youth Social Enterprise Network in November, with representatives from Social Enterprises within or that service the inner Melbourne Metro region and that are managed by, and/or provide support to young people through: the provision of training and employment opportunities, investment into youth programs. As a result of the meeting it is possible that the network will continue into 2018 with representatives meeting again to foster collaboration and share information.



## ON TRACK

On Track is a Victorian Government initiative which surveys school leavers within six months of leaving school to see if they are on a path to further education, training or employment. It also enables young people to seek further advice and assistance via a referral service if required to get back on track. On Track destination data helps provide a comprehensive picture of what happens to young people after they leave school. This assists the Victorian Government improve school, career, local job and training services. It also helps to develop the support available to young people, to ensure they have access to the guidance and skills they need to achieve their education and employment goals.

For the past few years all 31 IELLENs have been contracted by

the DET to survey thousands of young people across Victoria. Last year the IELLEN received 38 referrals for On Track, and every effort (usually three contacts) was made to make contact. In each case, the IELLEN provided information and or a referral when requested, to those contacted. General information was usually provided, over the telephone, as well as through an information sheet we compiled.

With regards to the "destination" of the school leaver (eg suitable course already found), a proportion of those surveyed stated that they had deferred and taken a gap year, and taking up study (eg a tertiary course) in 2018. Those undertaking a gap year were predominantly underemployed or unemployed and needing assistance to find work or looking for additional hours.

## ANNUAL IELLEN AWARDS

**The annual IELLEN Awards** celebrate the achievements of young people, education providers, employers and community organisations – and in 2017 we celebrated the IELLEN's 15th year of service to the community. Our Awards event was held in May, and attended by 70 people representing a range of stakeholders in our catchment, the event recognised student, school and community achievements with awards given in many categories (eg VCAL; VET; SBAT and VCE Students of the Year; Employer of the Year; Partnership of the Year; and Outstanding Achievement Awards).



### VCAL Student of the Year

We had two equally worthy recipients in this category, both students at the Hester Hornbrook Academy. Congratulations to Tiffany Black and Samantha Jane Hall (who is pictured here with staff, Kylie Galea and Justin Smith)



### Employer of the Year

Irwin Hau, Company Director of Chromatix supports young people in various ways, including offering work placements and providing career advice to high-school students.



## Partnership of the Year

A School – Community Partnership, St Kilda Primary School and Launch Housing co-designed a response to primary students experiencing housing instability after escaping family violence. The response improves students' educational and social outcomes, and with benefits extending to parents, peers, teachers, school leadership and administration, community housing agencies and local council services.



## SBAT Student of the Year

Adam Howie impressed staff at Bayford Volkswagen Camberwell with his positive attitude towards his Certificate III in Automotive SBAT. This led the company to continue Adam as a full-time apprentice once his secondary studies were complete.

## VET Student of the Year

Georgie Hastie from Camberwell High School has been an enthusiastic, committed student, undertaking VET studies as a part of her VCAL program. Her chosen field is health. Well done to Georgie, the IELLEN's VET Student of the Year!

## VCE Student of the Year

Vishka Davina Haydock, who was in Year 12 in 2017, excelled in all her subjects in Year 11, won the Year 11 Dux award and undertook some additional language subjects through Distance Education. In 2017 Vishka took up Latin, and plans to pursue tertiary studies in Linguistics at tertiary level.



## Community Impact Award

Winner of this Award was Bicycles Over Lunch Time, or BOLT as it's known, a program of SouthPort UnitingCare (SPUC), and aimed at 9 to 12 year old boys to help them remain engaged in education. The program has expanded and has so far been delivered to over 500 participants. Winner of our "Community Impact" Award, this is in fact the second year in a row our judging panel's given an award to SPUC for BOLT.



A second "Community Impact" Award was also given to a person who had made a real difference. JobCo Employment Services Community Liaison Officer, Kevin Dent, was recognised for his work with Boroondara Youth Services, supporting

at risk, marginalised young people to access work experience, volunteer placements or employment opportunities.

## Outstanding Achievement Award

We presented two awards for Outstanding Achievement at our event. Bethany Whitmore is a young actress who during her final year of VCE, successfully juggled career and school commitments. She's described by school staff as a fabulous role model and great individual.

The artistic ability of Anthony Samargis was fostered in Stonnington Youth Services 'Hit The Streets' program. Anthony was a stand out and produced two amazing murals with a group of participants. He's gone on to work as a commission artist. Staff at Stonnington Youth Services describe Anthony as an up and coming mentor in the creative art industry and an inspiration for many young people.

# NEW RESOURCES AND VIDEOS

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION & VOLUNTEERING



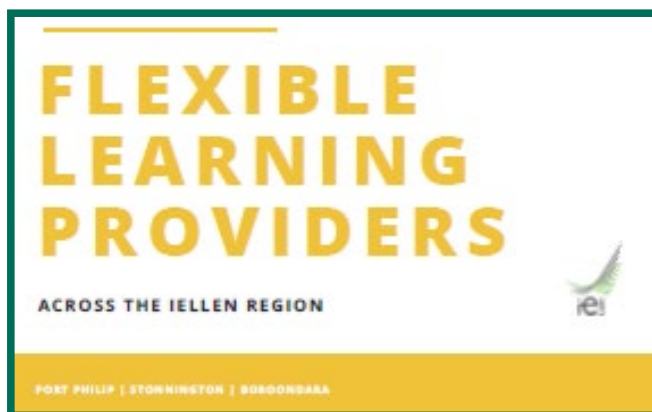
In addition to brokering a large number and range of partnerships, the IELLEN also played a key role across our catchment in information collection and dissemination. For example the IELLEN prepared, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, several new resources during the second half of 2017. One resource promoted opportunities for youth participation / volunteer work highlighting over 20 organisations for young people get involved with.

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISES



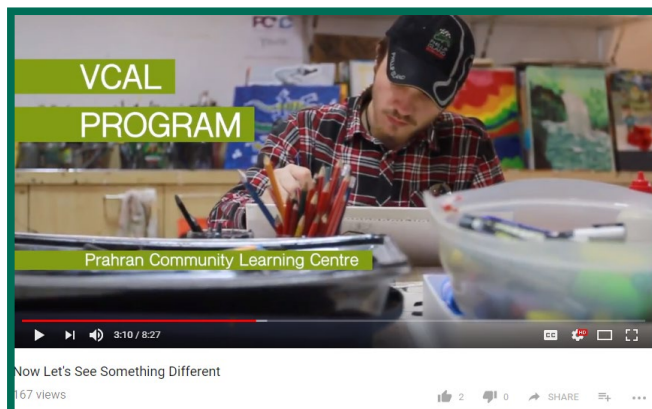
Another resource featured Social Enterprises, with 17 organisations included, each operated by, and/or provide opportunities to young people. Strong positive feedback received during December has encouraged us to put together additional new resources in 2018. Each of the resources are to be uploaded on our newly revamped website.

## FLEXIBLE LEARNING PROVIDERS



Another resource provided information on the 10 flexible learning providers available in the our three LGA's, providing information to those seeking alternatives to mainstream schools.

## VIDEO RESOURCES



The IELLEN also produced two short films in 2017. There was the 8 minute clip (uploaded onto YouTube in October) entitled "Now let's see something different". Depicting short interviews with students from the MCM/Hester Hornbrook Academy HEAT Program, students from PCLC, and members of the City of Stonnington, FREEZA committee, the film gave unfiltered voice to a selection of young people who learn or are active in the community. Our thanks to Nathan Coote and Jamal, young filmmakers and editors, who put this together. Secondly, there was a short animation to promote trades-based SWL opportunities to employers. This clip can also be seen on our YouTube channel. By the end of 2017, the number of views of all our short films (on YouTube and vimeo) was just shy of 2,000.



# SWL PROGRAM REPORT

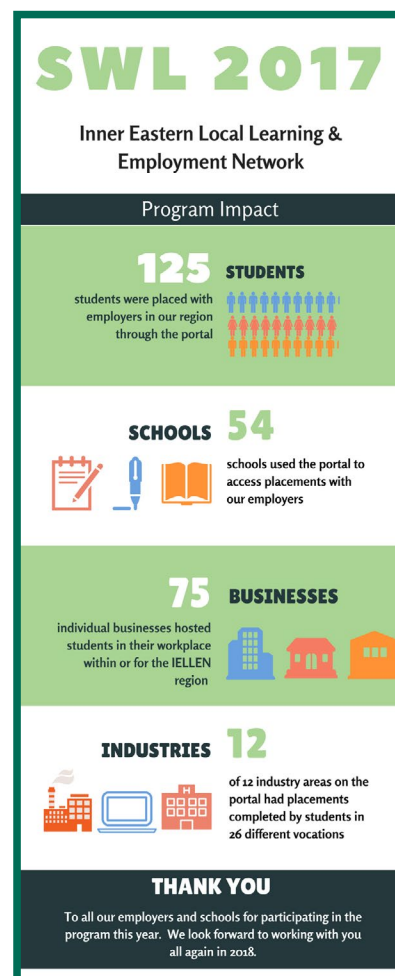
Since the start of 2016 the 31 LLENs across Victoria have been funded under the Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) Program to facilitate student access to SWL placements, tailored to local priorities and employment opportunities. Integral to the success of the program is the SWL Portal, the website which provides a single, easy to navigate information and referral point of opportunities offered by employers. LLENs source and upload opportunities onto it, and schools and students benefit from this.

2017 was the second year of the Program. It was a year of remarkable achievements.

- Over the course of the year there was a pronounced increase in awareness about the SWL Program from both local schools and from students. This increased visibility was state-wide, and it was local, with the IELLEN, for the second year running, one of the highest performing LLENs in terms of generating SWL opportunities.
- During 2017 the IELLEN placed more than 450 opportunities onto that Portal. With 125 of these taken up by students, this was an increase on the first year of the SWL Program and a trend we expect to continue into 2018.
- Our continued focus on sourcing high quality, industry-related opportunities led to 54 schools from across all of metropolitan Melbourne, and even regional Victoria, utilising them.

The opportunities generated and sourced were wide-ranging, covering all 12 state-defined industry categories, and within these, 32 different vocations. Two thirds of the opportunities taken up were in five industry areas: Community Services & Health (22), Creative Arts & Culture (20), Sport & Recreation (16), Hospitality (15) and Construction (15).

Of the 60 businesses with listed opportunities 54 of them hosted students. For all these fantastic results we acknowledge the strong support for the SWL Program from our businesses in our catchment area. We thank each and every one of the 60 (listed below) for supporting students and providing excellent opportunities for our students to gain valuable skills.



Argyle Road Childcare Centre	Handyman of Melbourne	Pets Indulgence
Baptcare - Hedley Sutton	Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre	Restaurant Quaff
Bayford BMW	Hawthorn Community House	Rhodes Hair and Spa
Bayford Volkswagen	Hello Music	rokk ebony
Bayview On The Park	Heritage Care - Chomley House	Room For Improvement
Bent Metal	Heritage Care - Water Gardens	Rubi Hair
BMD Civil Constructions	id.build	Rubi Hair Windsor
Boroondara Sports Complex	IMG Norway Australia	Sagra
Camberwell Toyota	Italy 1	Shop 35
Capital Building Contractors	Judith Penak Couture	Short Black Cafe
Capital Kitchen Chadstone	Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre	Signwave South Melbourne
Central Park Childcare Centre	Koto Hair	South Yarra BMW
CGH Electrical and Data	Mad Scientist	Target Camberwell
Chromatix	Middys Data and Electrical	Target Waverley Gardens
City Peugeot	Mimma Priolo	The Blue Room
DECO Contracting	Movement For Life Windsor	The Maling Room
Dipalma's Restaurant	MPT Travel and Events	The Workpoint
EFM Health Clubs Hawthorn East	Nazareth Care Camberwell	Through Road Kindergarten and Childcare
Fresco Frames	Penfold Motors	Victorian Tennis Academy
Goodlife Health Clubs Armadale	Pet Stock Hawthorn	Wicked Witch Software

## SUPPORTED BY THE IELLEN

The IELLEN CEO / delegated staff attended (committee) meetings throughout 2017 to support a total of **eight initiatives, partnerships or groups**.

The IELLEN actively supported Education State programs. The IELLEN is represented on the **Mission Australia-led (Bayside Peninsula) Navigator Executive Committee** and attended all but one of the meetings. The IELLEN sat on the **YEEHAW Local Working Group / Committee of School Focused Youth Services (Stonnington, Port Phillip, Glen Eira), and we were also represented on the Local Working Group for SFYS (Boroondara / Manningham)**. Staff have attended all meetings of both Local Working Groups.

The IELLEN was also represented on the Board of **"Communities That Care" (Stonnington)**, and has attended all meetings held. CTC is an evidence-based, community-change process for reducing youth problem behaviours, including harmful substance use, low academic achievement, and early school leaving.

The IELLEN has also actively contributed to one of the CTC's Working Groups, "SmartGen".

The IELLEN also continued as a member of the **Boroondara Young People's Advisory Group** (auspiced by the Council), and attended all but one of the meetings held.

The IELLEN also maintained involvement on the **Policy Advisory Group of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria** (attending all but two of the 2017 PAG meetings). We were also a member of the **Committee of Management of the Prahran Community Learning Centre (PCLC)**, a registered secondary provider and key Learn Local organisation in our catchment (attending all CoM meetings held). Similarly, IELLEN staff member Tracey Fenton sat on the Oakwood School Council, attending all meetings.

Through meeting input and the sharing of information, ideas and contacts, the IELLEN hopes its making a valued contribution to all eight initiatives, partnerships or groups.

## ADVOCACY

Through brokering and supporting partnerships or networks the IELLEN aims to build better futures for young people. Furthermore we endeavour to provide a voice for young people. The IELLEN supported peak body advocacy, and broader campaigns during 2017, among them:

**Marriage Equality** – In September the IELLEN got behind the campaign for marriage equality and a yes vote in the postal survey. We added our voice to the campaign online and through social media. Our name – and logo – was among a number of not-for-profits which appeared on the [australianmarriageequality.org](http://australianmarriageequality.org) site, calling for equal rights.

**Homelessness** – During October the IELLEN promoted the findings in the Final GALFA Report into LGBTQ Homelessness, and invited one of the researchers to speak at a network meeting we convene. Through social media, we helped bring attention to this report. Through the IMYCP in particular, the IELLEN also promoted the work of the Council to Homeless Persons, and highlighted issues around homelessness.

**Raise the Age** – In November the IELLEN joined a coalition of more than 60 organisations (including VCOS, Berry Street, and others) which signed an Open Letter to the state Premier asking to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years of age.

**Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse** – In December the IELLEN publicly acknowledged the work of the Royal Commission, welcoming its Final Report, and supporting its recommendations, including for a National Redress Scheme.



## **IELLEN**

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