

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Joint CEO and Chairperson's Report

We readily remember the challenges of recent years, when Melbourne endured extended lockdowns. This report for 2022 is a brighter one. Last year our organisation was able to fully implement an expanded and diversified suite of programs and services, which are outlined below.

Victorian Jobs Advocates

Two funding agreements with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) enabled the IELLEN to provide the Jobs Victoria Advocates program for a second year. Our Advocates provided a free service to anyone who lived, worked or studied in - or visited - the Cities of Stonnington, Port Phillip, Boroondara, Glen Eira of Bayside.

Staff offered referral to those who may not be aware of supports available to them, or do not know where to go for help and advice. This help included employment supports, as well as education and training, housing and mental health services.

Both the IELLEN and the Department recognise that we need information provided in community settings, via assertive outreach. During 2022 Advocates engaged with people at community festivals, in shopping centres, libraries, and many other community locations.

As we moved out of COVID-19 restrictions, we were pleased to realise the full potential of this

program and to properly assess its worth, and impacts. The IELLEN is delighted to be providing services in conjunction with so many community partners - other locally based not for profits, which include the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (now known as Helm Youth Services).

School – Industry engagement

2022 was the third and final year we delivered on a Common Funding Agreement with the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET).

All 31 LLEN organisations across the state (ie Vic LLENs) were funded to provide school-employer engagement services which focused on two key areas:

- structured workplace learning (SWL) opportunities / placements for secondary students with employers, and
- career-related events/activities for the benefit of secondary students.

IELLEN staff, as in past years, continued to actively support providers, organisations and community initiatives. We led a school focused VCAL Network to support VET delivery; a Pathways Partnership (with schools and providers such as Learn Local organisations and NFPs with multiple funding contracts across education / employment areas); and a Resilience and Wellbeing (RaW) Network for secondary school staff.

These services were complemented by other activities we conducted. For example, staff were represented on School Councils including the Oakwood School and Youth2Industry College.

We also provided the DET funded **On Track** service again in 2022. On Track involves follow up of students who have elected to participate in being surveyed and where needed, providing further information and or referral.

New initiatives

During 2022 we were also pleased to be able to offer great new partnership initiatives.

Cooking to Connect: funded by a grant from Vic Health, this program (which we designed) was one delivered in partnership with Oakwood School. It quickly became popular with students and well received by staff. The program not only provided nutritious meals for students involved but opportunities for them to learn cooking skills, and to also gain knowledge of different foods and cuisines.

Vic Pol Partnership: following our signing of an Agreement with Victoria Police, we were able to formally proceed with a partnership to enable Victoria Police members to refer people to us who needed community/support services. Staff members were based part-time at two local police stations.

21 years

IELLEN now has a 21 year history in the local community. We were also pleased that we successfully applied for PBI status. The IELLEN is now tax exempt with DGR endorsement.

Stats for the 2022 year show our relevance and achievements are as strong as they've ever been.

We more than doubled the number of partnerships, networks, projects and committees that we facilitated or supported over the previous twelve month period.

We are most proud of the fact that as an organisation of fewer than ten EFT staff we directly assisted more than 7,000 young people and adults. This was a huge increase on 2021. All these figures add up! They show the organisation to be more impactful than ever.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



LEFT to RIGHT: Philip Javier, Gary Buckeridge (Secretary), Bronwen Thompson (Deputy Chairperson), Sam Joukadjian (Chairperson). **ABSENT:** David Paton (Treasurer) and Karen Kim.

Acknowledgements

The work we did and the results we achieved all reflect on the experience and dedication of our staff team and our Committee of Management. It reflects on the commitment we have to achieving targets, maintaining quality of service, and responding to community needs.

All these factors combined make the IELLEN unique, setting us apart from others which might be bigger, better known.

We wish to firstly thank and acknowledge the Advocates staff team who we had on board during 2022. All brought diligence and expertise to roles. Thank you for your work Hap Dan, Ash Bardolia, Annalise Hassett, Michelle Haintz, Siobhan Mitchell, Kelly Tran and Romilly Miller.

We welcomed Liz Nekrasova to the IELLEN team who provided important administrative, and other supports, to the organisation.

Secondly, and as we've done many times before, we would like to especially thank Dennis Cindric and Tracey Fenton. They are now long term staff and their contribution last year was again significant, their efforts second to none.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Committee for strategic oversight. We extend our gratitude to the Executive Committee: Bronwen Thompson; Gary Buckeridge, and David Paton. We also thank Philip Javier, and new Committee member, Karen Kim, for their keen involvement and input. With a commitment to the organisation's objectives, a clear moral compass, and responsible management, it's indeed a great Committee.

As 2022 drew to a close, we were pleased to enter into a new long-term Agreement with the Department of Education. This is for the "School to Work" program, which builds on the work the 31 LLENs have done in School - Industry engagement.

The IELLEN is improving lives through education, employment, and welfare support, especially for vulnerable and at risk (including young) people. As an organisation we are proud that we do make a difference. For 2023 we will continue our good work.

**Andrew Neophytou (CEO) and
Sam Joukadjian (Chairperson)**

KEY STATS 2022



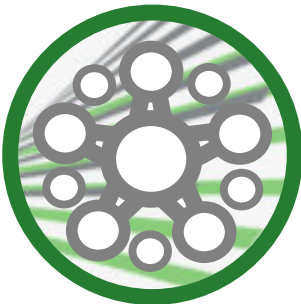
**4,365 young people
directly benefited from our
programs and services**



**3,025 adults directly
benefited from our
programs and services**



**35 partnerships,
networks, projects and
committees facilitated
or supported**



**200 stakeholders
engaged (schools, not-
for-profits, employers
and LGAs)**



**33,000 reached through
our Social Media
(Facebook, Twitter) pages**



17 careers events

IELLEN Annual Recognition Awards

As part of our AGM the IELLEN has held an annual Awards event since 2014, recognising young people, as well as employers and community organisations, or partnerships. These Awards focus on those with a connection to the LGAs of Stonnington, Port Phillip and/or Boroondara.

Last year six students (pictured) received Awards for their resilience, achievements, or contributions in 2021.

For their contributions to the career development of young people, the IELLEN also acknowledged two employers: Bill Cavanagh (Owner of the Argyle Road Child Care Centre), and Suraj Lamichhane (former Director of Mr Pilgrim, Chadstone).



Meg



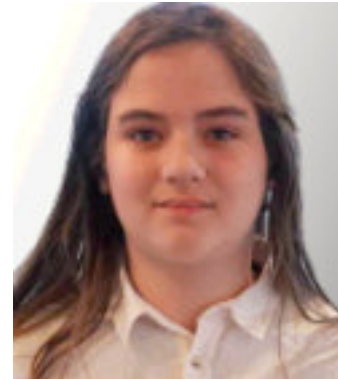
Antonio



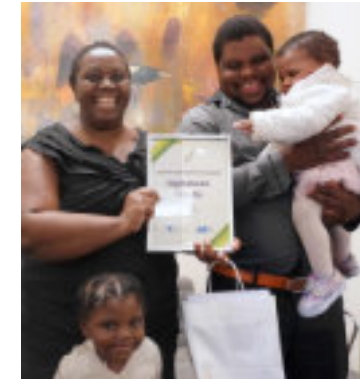
Raine



Cliff



Ziggy



Mpho
(Mpho's family
accepting on his behalf)



Let's work together

***Together we can improve lives
through education, employment
and welfare support***



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