



# NEWSLETTER

## *South East Local Learning and Employment Network*

### **SELLEN 'THINK TANK'**

Early in September 2020 SELLEN arranged a "Think Tank", gathering together schools, RTO's, DET, industry and VET providers to discuss creative ways to support VET students impacted by the changes imposed during COVID 19. Concerns have been for more than 7000 students enrolled in VETDSS in the Southern Melbourne area who may not complete their VCAL or VET qualifications this year. Working with the constraints of Melbourne metro's stage 4 measures, providers have been working tirelessly and creatively to support young people in achieving their certificate qualifications. Twenty-two people joined the meeting with representatives from SELLEN, Chisholm Institute, Secondary Schools, RTO's, Head Start, DET and Industry Representatives. A variety of ideas and discussion points were addressed.

- Where practical, delivering units online
- Adjusting courses and enrollments to those not requiring placement hours for course completion e.g. Business, I.T.
- Utilising Virtual reality settings for workplace assessments
- Offering simulated learning environments e.g. Allied Health
- Using volunteers for practical assessments e.g. salon assistance
- Creating teams at home for completing assignments
- Utilising existing staff and school sites for work placements e.g. Canteens for hospitality students, office administration for business placements and childcare trainers using their own facilities for early childhood students
- Possibility of delivering additional weeks in blocks, to meet course requirements
- Plans for RTO's, TAFE's and schools to work together to support students completing qualifications by the end of 2020 or early 2021

The information received during the Think Tank was included in a report sent to DET which provided a snapshot of VicLLEN's consultations with schools. VCAL students have since been assured they will get their VCAL certificate just as VCE students will receive their VCE certificate, Thank you to all who participated and to those who were unable to attend, as we all work together to advocate for students during these difficult times.

"Where they have been unable to complete units as a result of the pandemic, they will be receiving a credit as part of a special consideration process,"

"The special consideration for our VCAL students will look at the impact of remote learning and the pandemic on their ability to complete practical units, this is all about hours for hands-on work.

"They will get their VCAL certificate just as VCE students will receive their VCE certificate."

For the 15,000 VET students who have been unable to complete their practical components of study, the state government will guarantee them enrolment at an education provider in 2021 and waive their course fees next year.



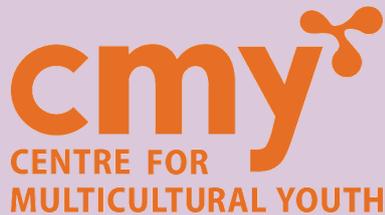
Education Minister  
James Merlino



## GAMBLING HARM AWARENESS WEEK

During Gambling Harm Awareness Week, people are encouraged to talk about the harms associated with gambling and the effects this can have on communities, families, friends, workplaces and individuals. Gambling harm can affect self-esteem, relationships, physical and mental health, work performance and social life. The week focuses on personal stories of recovery, which are powerful because they offer a sense of hope and optimism. They also encourage open community discussions that help to reduce stigma, which can be a barrier to help seeking.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Working  
for  
Victoria

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH CMY

The Working for Victoria (WfV) Fund is part of the Victorian Government's \$1.7 billion Economic Survival Package to address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. The Fund supports the creation of new short-term roles, and has partnered with Sidekicker to support job seekers to find work.

Under this initiative, a coalition of eight youth-focused organisations, led by YACVic, has received funding to employ a variety of roles to strengthen youth outreach and the youth sector in Victoria in light of the COVID-19 crisis. CMY will be recruiting for a range of roles open to multicultural young people, including internships, youth workers and business services staff.

You are eligible to participate in Working for Victoria if you are:

- legally able to work in Victoria
- are unemployed or have recently experienced a significant reduction in income.

[Click here for current vacancies](#)

## POSITIVE COVID CAMPAIGN - CARDINIA YOUTH SERVICES

Cardinia Shire Council Youth Services are calling on young people aged 12-24 years to join them in developing a positive social media campaign in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

They are asking young people to submit a creative piece that represents a positive experience they have had during COVID-19 this can be in the form of a drawing, painting, short story, poetry, song, photo, short video or a model/sculpture. The creative pieces will be shared on Council social media accounts and in Council publications.

Please submit your creative piece in the above format along with the signed consent form to [m.luck@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:m.luck@cardinia.vic.gov.au) with the subject "Positive Message". Submission will open Monday 5 October 2020, and the publishing of creative pieces will begin on Monday 26 October on social media platforms.

Open for ages 12-24

GET INVOLVED

**SOMETHING POSITIVE I'VE EXPERIENCED DURING COVID-19 IS...**

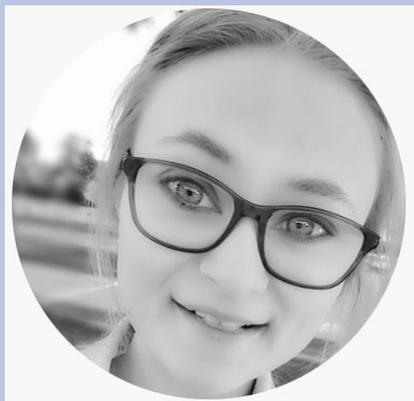
Share with us a creative piece that represents a positive experience you have had during COVID-19. This can be a drawing, painting, short story, poetry, photo, song, short video or a model/sculpture

See Terms and Conditions for more information

For more information contact My Place Youth Facility 1800 4 YOUTH or [myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

YOUTH SERVICES

Cardinia



## MY JOURNEY

After months of unsuccessful job hunting I came across an opportunity on seek, a Certificate IV Community Services traineeship, managed by Taskforce. I applied for it and within a week I heard back and went in for an interview. It was then I found out about the program they run. The program is a State funded pilot, through VCOSS, to increase pathways into the rapidly growing community services sector. The program has ongoing support for trainees, through Taskforce, but you are employed directly by a community services sector organisation. After my interviews, I started my traineeship at SELLEN while studying on the job site and went to RMIT on Fridays. It was truly amazing. They have the best support. Taskforce supported me the whole way through the journey. They help with whatever you need whether it be work clothes or learning support while studying.

Out of this course I gained a lot of communication skills but this course also opened my eyes to a lot of things I never knew before. I learnt from this course about building relationships and learning a lot about the community sector and how important it is. Career wise I would love to be a Youth AOD support worker, because I'd love to work with young people and show them that there is more to life and when they put their minds to things, they can achieve their goals.

**Shayna - Telecommunications Officer & Administration**

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it"

Charles R. Swindoll



## LOOKOUT Centre, SEVR



Supporting Career Practitioners working with vulnerable students This free workshop will provide participants with information, discussion and shared best practice in supporting vulnerable students in Out-of-Home Care.

LOOKOUT Centre Principal, Murray Geddes, Psychologist, Cara Barrie and Career Education Advisor, Tash Chidgey will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to the LOOKOUT Centre and Out-of-Home Care
- Introduction to Trauma Informed Practice
- Student voice – CREATE Foundation
- Supporting career and pathway planning for students in OOHC – a collaborative approach

When: Tuesday, October 13

Time: 9.30 – 11.30 am

Where: Online via WebEx

RSVP: [natasha.chidgey@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:natasha.chidgey@education.vic.gov.au)



**UNDERSTANDING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF STUDENTS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE**

## PARENTS BUILDING SOLUTIONS ONLINE

Anglicare are providing free online sessions for parents, step parents and grandparents and carers of children aged 3 to 17 years residing in the City of Casey.

Join in for an interactive program to share experiences and ideas and learn strategies to support your child.

[Click here for more details](#)



## Young People to Have Their Say On Victoria's Future

Victoria will have its First Ever Youth Strategy. Ros Spence, Minister for Youth, recently announced an upcoming consultation with young people, to inform and guide the development of Victoria's first ever Youth Strategy. The development of a Youth Strategy is something that LLENs have been advocating for, in conjunction with YACVic and VCOSS for the last two years and it is fantastic to see it becoming a reality.

Stay tuned for more information about the upcoming consultations, including dates and times of one in the South East.

[See the Youth Forum dates here](#)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Over the last few weeks SELLEN staff have been extremely busy developing a range of new resources for schools and seeking feedback from schools on the impact of COVID, specifically for VET and VCAL students.

The feedback we received was collated with the feedback from across the State and submitted to DET on their request. Many of the recommendations were reflected in the announcements made on Friday regarding VCAL and VET completions. On the resources front, the SELLEN website is stacked with more than 50 new resources for schools and students to assist with finding out about career pathways, writing resumes and having interviews.

**Andrew Simmons - SELLEN CEO**



Hands up if you want to experience working for council?

City of Casey has over 150 jobs on offer thanks to the State Government's Working for Victoria initiative. Under Working for Victoria, we will provide jobs for unemployed Victorian jobseekers – whether they have lost their jobs due to the impacts of COVID-19 or have been without work for a longer period of time.

[Learn more here](#)