



MY Education Awards 2021

Proudly presented by the Centre for Multicultural Youth



Acknowledging
Excellence in
Education Support
in Victoria



Education
and Training



MY Education provides resources and support crucial to the success of students' out-of-school-hours learning throughout Victoria.

The Centre for Multicultural Youth's MY Education team delivers two key programs that improve out-of-school-hours learning:

LEARNING BEYOND THE BELL (LBB)

Across Victoria, LBB supports over 365 organisations and schools delivering outside school hours learning support programs, also known as homework clubs. These programs provide high quality tuition and learning support to children and young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and their families.

REFUGEE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM (RESP)

RESP works with place-based clusters of schools and provides holistic and targeted support for 18-24 months. The program builds connections between student achievement and wellbeing, while strengthening engagement between family, school and community.

RESP is a partnership with Foundation House and the Department of Education and Training, delivered in collaboration with Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and the Association of Independent Schools Victoria.

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Bouncing Back

CMY celebrates excellence and showcases the outstanding contributions made by Out-of-School-Hours Learning Support Program to the success of the learning of primary and secondary students from migrant and refugee backgrounds in Victoria.

This year we recognise and celebrate the OSHLSP sector for its critical role in helping young people to 'bounce back' from challenges of the pandemic.

2021 Awards categories:

1. OSHLSP of the Year - Metropolitan
2. OSHLSP of the Year - Regional/Rural
3. Outstanding Volunteer - Metropolitan
4. Outstanding Volunteer - Regional/Rural
5. Outstanding Secondary Student
6. Outstanding Primary Student

Featuring special guests:

Tim Richardson MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Schools

Faye Shee-Durnion, Event Emcee & CMY Shout Out Speaker

Anna Louey, Keynote Speaker &
CMY Youth Advisory Group Member 2021

Music performed Lynn Laufou

Out-of-School-Hours Learning Support Program of the Year / Metropolitan

Dandenong Education Program- St Vincent De Paul Society

The Dandenong Education Program run by St Vincent De Paul Society shares their passion for learning with the community and provides support, stability and connection for students and families living in the Greater Dandenong region. Their learning support program engages students through a growth mindset and strengths-based approach to student driven learning. Students are supported and empowered to develop the skills and confidence to be effective learners and foster personal and social growth. The Dandenong Education Program strongly values their volunteers and has over 50 skilled volunteers supporting the program and students. They also warmly welcome families and encourage connections and partnerships with the wider community and various local organisations.

Strong Foundations Program (F-2)- Kensington Neighbourhood House

Kensington Neighbourhood House's Strong Foundations Program works with young people of ages 5 to 18 years old. This program was created in response to a growing need from the community for a local study support program for all ages. The program offers varied support catering to the individual needs of students. Younger students are provided with literacy and numeracy intervention, while older students receive subject specific support. The Strong Foundations Program welcomes families to stay and participate in the program. They also provide parenting education sessions that help parents develop confidence to support their child's learning at home. The program engages 50 students and has 26 volunteers. The program has been developing their online delivery for future lockdowns to ensure students are continually being supported.

Living & Learning African Communities Homework Club- Living & Learning Pakenham

The Living & Learning African Communities Homework Club supports young people in grades Prep-12 living in the Pakenham area. The program ensures African young people and their families have access to a safe, inclusive and culturally appropriate environment. The program has seen significant growth over the last 12 months, and now supports over 100 students with support from 25 tutors. Living and Learning Pakenham build and nurture positive relationships between community organisations, local schools, families, volunteer tutors and students. They strive to engage families in the program and provide a range of activities including IT training, job search services, and EAL classes, among other things. This holistic program provides a range of engaging activities for students. In addition to providing educational support, the homework club offers art, sport, sewing, gardening, sculpture, legal studies, music, podcasting, bike education - just to name a few!

Fitzroy Youth Homework Club- Young Assets Foundation

Fitzroy Youth Homework Club supports students in Grade 6, secondary school and tertiary education experiencing educational disadvantage. The program was established in 2021 to fill a significant gap left by the cancellation of a long standing learning support program. The Young Assets Foundation have created a thriving program in a short period of time, and have included the voices of their students in the decision making processes through their student steering committee. Their program operates five days a week, engages 46 highly skilled volunteers and supports 98 students living in the City of Yarra public housing. In addition to academic and social support there is a strong focus on assisting students with transitions between primary and secondary school, and secondary and tertiary education. Their program is further strengthened through their close working relationships with two key local high schools.



Out-of-School-Hours Learning Support Program of the Year/ Regional/ Rural



Vinnies Reading Club, East Warrnambool- St Vincent De Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul reading club in East Warrnambool has a simple but powerful purpose: to help students develop a love of reading. Through recruiting volunteers with a wide range of educational and life experiences, the club ensures students have a diverse and supportive environment in which to pursue their social, emotional and academic goals. In 2021, they have run a laptop drive for students to assist with remote schooling and allow them to engage with the program. They have also expanded their program to include peer tutors from a local high school, helping their students to stay engaged with their learning.

Colac Diversitat Homework Club- Diversitat

The Colac Diversitat Homework Club supports the children of migrant workers in Colac, most commonly the newly-arrived Chinese community. As well as supporting EAL students with numeracy and literacy, the club successfully increases social connection and helps students and families to engage with Australian culture and community, as well as acknowledging traditional days from their own culture, which enables them to feel settled and confident in their new community. In 2021, the club has risen to support the needs of their families by switching to an online format during restrictions, and connecting them with family programs for further support.

Diversity Homework Club- Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council

Diversity Homework Club, run by Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council, is one of the largest regional clubs in Victoria, supporting over 40 students, primarily from African and Asian migrant and refugee families. Over the last 18 months, the Diversity Homework Club have reached out to their community in a variety of innovative ways to address their social and emotional wellbeing, and learning needs. These include: monthly nutrition kits, a tech-access program for families, an online choir, STEM projects, a reading club, and weekly sessions which provide fun and engaging academic tasks for students. Tutors also receive regular training to ensure they are making the most of the online sessions, leading to a confident and highly competent group ready to take on new projects to suit student's needs.

NBC and CCV CALD Homework Club- Northern Bay College & Catholic Care Victoria

The CALD homework club, jointly run by Northern Bay College and Catholic Care in Geelong, provides support to newly arrived refugee and asylum seeker students, who are struggling with a wide range of problems including the stress of resettlement, difficulty connecting with teachers and peers, low self-esteem, and high rates of absenteeism and drop-out due to difficulties coping with their school work. The CALD homework club work hard to overcome these challenges for their students through outstanding family engagement efforts, utilising Multicultural Education Aides to provide in-language support to students and families, partnering with the local library who provide EAL resources, and retaining volunteers by investing in them and demonstrating appreciation for them.



Outstanding Volunteer / Metropolitan

David Nelson- Dandenong Education Program (St Vincent De Paul Society)

David has been a dedicated, hard-working, and caring volunteer tutor at the Dandenong Education Program since early 2018. He exemplifies the principles of growth mindset and student centered learning. He has a natural talent for building relationships and engaging students in their learning. David often makes learning fun and relevant to student experiences, and engages older students in conversations about their education pathways and futures. David provided three laptops that he reconditioned himself to students in the program, sparking the laptop gifting program that is now a pillar within the Dandenong Education Program. This kind gesture has made a huge impact on the student's ability to access education, particularly as online learning has become fundamental. David is an extremely dedicated volunteer, his resilient, reliable, friendly and can-do attitude has been invaluable to the Dandenong Education Program.

Tom Harris- Study Squad (The Huddle)

Tom has been volunteering with the Study Squad since the beginning of 2017. He is a friendly and consistent volunteer who builds strong relationships with students, fostering their self-efficacy and self-confidence in STEM. He has a strong interest in math and science, and his passion for them is clearly evident in his tutoring and his ability to motivate students to engage with their learning in these subject areas. Tom has demonstrated reliability, patience, and warmth while volunteering with The Huddle, and is often paired with new students because of his friendly and welcoming nature. Tom has been extremely flexible in shifting from face-to-face to online sessions and he represents The Huddle's values of Learn, Grow and Belong in all that he does.

David Taylor- Study Squad (The Huddle)

David is a long serving volunteer at the Study Squad with The Huddle, having been a volunteer tutor since mid-2015. He is a dedicated, reliable, patient and passionate volunteer, rarely missing a session. As a retired teacher David has a great passion for learning and particularly for the English Language, literature and drama. His background in drama means that he has a talent for engaging students in interesting and theatrical ways. David encourages students to express themselves and their opinions openly, fostering self-confidence within his students. His calm, consistent and committed presence is extremely reassuring for students, parents, and staff and he is highly valued by all.

Inna Pronichkina- Dixon House Homework Club (Dixon House)

Inna has been a valued volunteer at the Dixon House Homework Club for the past year. She has used her skills as an EAL teacher to provide engaging and achievable lessons for the young people she works with at the program. She is always well prepared, providing teaching props and tailoring learning materials to individual student needs and interests. By attuning to her student' personalities and passions, Inna is able to scaffold the students' learning to encourage active participation and a growth mindset to learning. Not only has Inna been vital in providing academic support to students, she also leads group activities, and shares her teaching and digital expertise with her peers. She has a deep care for the wellbeing and educational outcomes of the students and takes a positive and patient approach to her tutoring.



Outstanding Volunteer / Regional/Rural



Timothy Bevan Walton- Diversity Homework Club (BRMC)

Timothy has been a volunteer tutor with the Diversity Homework Club in Ballarat for over 5 years, which has allowed him to get to know and devise highly effective tutoring strategies for his students. Timothy has successfully pivoted with the switch to online delivery, to make online learning engaging and exciting for students, and he regularly offers technological support for his fellow tutors to make sessions run smoothly. Within the club, Timothy is known for his inspiring and patient nature, which encourages even the shyest of students to have a go, helping them reach their social and academic potential.

Paul Breed- NBC & CCV CALD Homework Club (Northern Bay College & Catholic Care Victoria)

Paul has been working with senior students at Northern Bay College for over 3 years now, and has never missed a session of the CALD homework club. As well as improving the program through taking the initiative to secure appropriate EAL resources and obtaining the syllabus from teachers to improve tutors' preparation, he always makes an effort to meet students on their level, respecting them and building up their confidence with his calm and welcoming presence. As Kisile, one of Paul's students says, "Mr Paul listens and finds a way to understand me... I am a different student because of his wisdom and dedication to helping students."

Heather Ann Stewart- Diversity Homework Club (BRMC)

Heather has volunteered with the Diversity Homework Club in Ballarat for more than 4 years, and has always been a cheerful and enthusiastic presence in the club, which has been of particular importance in the last year. She has a curiosity and love of learning which she brings to every session, ensuring that each student she works with finishes a session with a big smile on their face. She also ensures that new tutors at the homework club feel supported and confident in their new role. Her great contributions to tutor discussions help to make each session inspired and focused on the best outcomes for their students.

Liseni Warnakulasuriya- Diversity Homework Club (BRMC)

Liseni began volunteering at the Diversity Homework Club as a peer tutor in year 12, and has now become one of the most well-loved tutors at the club. Her students say that everyone in her breakout room are always laughing, and that she's very funny and welcoming, which encourages all students to participate and feel proud of their own efforts. Liseni's efforts have strengthened the morale and self-esteem of the entire group, making her a 'ray of sunshine' in a very difficult year.



Outstanding Secondary Student



Misgana Hishal – Hotham Mission Homework Club (Hotham Mission)

Misgana is a grade 7 student who has attended the Hotham Mission Homework Club for three years. She is a focused student and always brings a positive attitude to the homework club and her learning. Misgana has fostered strong relationships with other students in the program and with all of the volunteer tutors. She is a natural leader, arriving each week with a smile on her face and often helps the tutors with group activities and pack up. She is a wonderful and positive influence within the homework club!

Savana Alani – Aiming High VCE Support Program (Banksia Gardens Community Services)

Savana has attended the Aiming High VCE Support Program for the past two years, and is currently in her final year of school. She is an ambitious student having completed two year 12 subjects early last year with high marks, and currently undertaking a university subject while completing year 12, with plans to become a lawyer. She experienced a number of challenges this past year and not only has she overcome these, she has gone above and beyond, remaining positive, providing support to her friends and family, and maintaining her role on her school committee. Savana is determined, passionate and courageous and is an excellent role model for her peers.

Nivashini Neelavannan – Diversity Homework Club (BRMC)

For the past four years Nivashini has been a cheerful and engaged student at the Diversity Homework Club in Ballarat. She has a great optimism and love of learning, which has been demonstrated in her participation in planned activities and her contributions to the homework club through sharing her research and knowledge with her peers and tutors. She has an awareness beyond herself and enjoys sharing information and helping others. She is a wonderful presence in the homework club and puts all her efforts into every aspect of her learning.

Celine Arop – Life Skills Atherton Gardens (Mzuri Dance)

Celine is a diligent learner, she demonstrates a commitment to do her best and consistently works hard despite any challenges that she may face. She has attended the Life Skills program for four years and is a reliable and positive influence in the homework club. Through many challenges faced in 2020 and 2021 Celine has showed extreme resilience and strength. Her patience, gentle kindness and her calm reflective approach are strong characteristics of her personality. She is supportive of her community and her peers, demonstrates great leadership skills and is a wonderful role model to other students.

Outstanding Primary Student



Arjun Sembey- Mernda Homework Club (Whittlesea Community Connections)

Arjun is in grade 3. He has been attending the Mernda Homework Club run by Whittlesea Community Connections for 18 months, and was in fact their first student! Arjun has been a caring and positive presence in the club since then, and has taken it upon himself to welcome each new student at the club and make them feel right at home, demonstrating wonderful leadership skills and a very compassionate nature.

Fiona Mangok- Life Skills Atherton Gardens (Mzuri Dance)

Fiona has been a part of the Mzuri Dance community since pre-school, and part of the Life Skills Atherton Gardens program for the last 3 years. Despite challenges, Fiona has shown incredible resilience and remains committed to attending the homework club regularly and to connecting with her community, tutors, and peers. Fiona's intelligence and empathy make her a leader and a role model, and an integral part of the club.

Martha Tuany- Diversity Homework Club (BRMC)

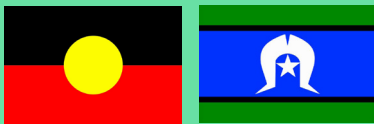
Martha is in year 5, and has been attending the Diversity Homework Club run by the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council for 2 years. In that time, she has shown great initiative in creating activities for her fellow students and continues to be a 'ray of sunshine' in online sessions. Despite difficulties in the past year, Martha has navigated her learning with pride and confidence, and has been an inspiration for many students to sign up for the program. In particular, Martha has been a strong role model for her niece and younger sister, and encouraged them to engage with their own learning with enthusiasm, just as she does.

Nivetha Neelavannan- Diversity Homework Club (BRMC)

Nivetha, who is in year 3, is one of the youngest members of the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Diversity Homework Club, but this doesn't stop her from giving senior students a run for their money in group discussions. Her enthusiasm and authenticity are indicative of the resilience she shows in the face of difficult circumstances, and as noted by her tutors, inspires other students to become excited about their learning and the online sessions.



CMY congratulates the entire OSHLSP sector, and acknowledges the tireless dedication given to supporting the education of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in Victoria.



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners on whose Country we are based. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We extend this respect to Traditional Owners throughout Victoria where we live, work and play.