

OELLEN Annual report 2022



OELLEN

The Board 2022

Chair - Helene Rooks - VALA

Deputy Chair - Rosina Fotia - Ringwood Secondary College

Treasurer - Janet Claringbold - MDLC

Jayde Hayes - Knox City Council

Allan Rennick - Healesville High School

Lea Jones - DE - Koorie Education

Adam Cooper - Maroondah Council

Sarav Martin - Outerspace

Craig Hilton - AIG

Kaye Bhan - Croydon Community School

Jane Trewin - Box Hill Institute

The 2022 figures

251

SWL Placements
118% of KPI

5

Work experience
placements
(no KPI)

61

New host
employers added
to the portal

67

School-Employer
Engagement
Activities
279% of KPI

3

School based
apprenticeships
100% of KPI

35

Participating
schools of 46 in
the region

The team 2022



FIONA PURCELL
CEO



SHARON NEAL
SWL TEAM LEADER



BROOKE YOUNG
PARTNERSHIP BROKER



JASMINE MISHRA
SCHOOL & INDUSTRY
PARTNERSHIP
BROKER



ANTOINETTE BURFURD
SWL COORDINATOR



MATT TENCH
SWL COORDINATOR



CARMEL SHAW
OFFICE MANAGER

Chair Report

The Outer Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network is an organisation that works independently to develop strategies and partnerships that support young people across the Maroondah, Knox, and Yarra Ranges local government areas to transition successfully from school to work or further education. It is exciting to see our community growing, with schools reopening for face-to-face classes and industries returning to the "new normal," and our community buzzing with activity.

Our young people are doing a great job of embracing their education and planning for their future. However, we must be mindful that some students are still dealing with the pandemic's effects on their mental health and struggling to engage with education, employment, and the community.

We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to our partners for their continued support and commitment throughout 2022. The year marked the end of a four-year funding contract with DET, and we are pleased to report that OELLEN exceeded all targets set for the year.

Our apprenticeship evenings held throughout the year have been well attended, and there has been an increase in demand for industry placements as we pivoted back from online industry tours, webinars, and practice interviews. We are grateful to our local employers for their support and willingness to take part in a dialogue with education on encouraging young people to consider a career in these local industries.

EWIT (Empowering Women in Trades) has been gaining recognition among our gender-diverse groups, encouraging them to aspire to a wide range of occupations they may not have previously considered. The CIMET Network (Careers in Manufacturing and Technology) has grown since its launch in October 2022, thanks to the support of our local employers.

We remain committed to prioritizing school-to-work initiatives and supporting schools as they transition to the new VCE Vocational Certificate and Victorian Pathway Certificate in 2023. We extend our gratitude to the Board for their commitment and continued support as they provide governance and strategic direction.

We would like to thank Adam Cooper from Maroondah Council for his contribution as he steps down after 11 years of service to the OELLEN Board. Adam has been a valuable Board member who always reminded us of the voice of youth in anything OELLEN undertook. We wish him well as he moves to another area of council. We would also like to express our gratitude to Jane Trewin from Box Hill Institute, who has recently left the board.

We owe our success to our dedicated team, whose professionalism, passion, care, and advocacy create endless opportunities for our young people to discover and connect with industry and employment. Finally, we commend our CEO Fiona for her outstanding leadership throughout the year. The work of OELLEN is highly respected, both at the local and state levels, which is a testament to Fiona's hard work for the organization.



Helene Rooks
Chair
Outer Eastern LLEN

CEO Report

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the OELLEN Board for their unwavering support and excellent governance during the challenging Covid period. The organization welcomes the return to some normality, and I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the Chair, Helene Rooks, Deputy Chair Rosina Fotia, and Treasurer Janet Claringbold for their outstanding contributions.

As the CEO, I am proud to report that the Structured Workplace Learning program (SWL) has surpassed its 2022 targets, with 251 students placed in the industry, far exceeding the original target of 212. The team has also exceeded its events target, organizing 67 events, while the original goal was 24. This extraordinary accomplishment reflects the outstanding efforts and dedication of the LLEN team.

Furthermore, we are thrilled to have strengthened our alignment with local skills needs, thereby increasing the opportunities available for young people seeking employment, training, or further education in these industries. We continue to partner with Yarra Ranges Tourism, Yarra Ranges Council, Knox Council, Maroondah Council, Ringwood Central Learn Local, Box Hill Institute Skills and Jobs Centre, Swinburne Skills and Jobs Centre, Jobs Victoria, and other industry partners and apprenticeship providers to deliver on the Jobs for Youth project, a crucial part of the Eastern Metro partnerships.

Our objective was to develop a social media campaign that promotes opportunities for the matching of local employers with young job-seekers and those seeking placements while creating 50 jobs for young people in the region. I am delighted to report that OELLEN achieved 51 confirmed jobs in the outer east for young people as a result of this engagement. Given the adverse impact of Covid, this was an exceptional result.

Career and apprenticeship event attendance has risen significantly throughout the year, with the events now growing into well-attended community events across our three local Government Areas. It is heartening to see our young people attending and seeking avenues to achieve an SBAT or apprenticeship.

Our partnership with Tech Schools and local industry and schools has been successful in raising students' awareness of careers in STEM in our local area. We are particularly proud of our collaboration with EWIT, St Josephs College, and Box Hill Institute, who hosted events for girls to increase their awareness of non-traditional trades.

I am delighted to welcome Carmel Shaw to our team to replace Debbie Ceko, and Antoinette Burfurd, who has recently commenced as a Structured Workplace Coordinator. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Sharon Neal, Jasmine Mishra, and Matthew Tench for their contributions to school industry links, as well as Brooke Young for her expertise in social media and events management.

Looking ahead, the OELLEN team is eagerly anticipating using the school-to-work portal in 2023 to further our placement opportunities.



Fiona Purcell
CEO
Outer Eastern LLEN



2022 OELLEN CASE STUDIES

Work-integrated learning programs such as SWL (Structured Workplace Learning) have become increasingly popular among high schools and vocational education providers. These programs provide students with an opportunity to apply their classroom learning in a real-world setting, while also gaining practical skills and experience. Moreover, SWL placements have been found to be an effective way of securing ongoing employment opportunities for students. In these case studies, we explore the success of SWL placements in leading to ongoing employment opportunities for students.



Seth, a student at Emerald SC, completed a SWL placement with a cabinet maker.

During his placement, Seth demonstrated a strong work ethic and an eagerness to learn. As a result, the cabinet maker offered Seth a school-based apprenticeship (SBAT) upon completion of his SWL placement. Seth gladly accepted the offer and is now working as a cabinet maker's apprentice while completing his studies. The SBAT has provided Seth with a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience, while also earning a wage and completing his education.



Harrison, a student at St Joes, completed a SWL placement with a local golf course. During his placement, Harrison showed a keen interest in the golf industry and demonstrated his willingness to learn. As a result, the golf course offered Harrison a full-time traineeship upon completion of his SWL placement. Harrison accepted the offer and is now working as a trainee at the golf course.



Leon, a student from a neighbouring regions school, completed a SWL placement with a recreational employer in the OELLEN region. During his placement, Leon showed a passion for sports and recreation and demonstrated a strong work ethic. As a result, the recreational employer offered Leon a casual position upon completion of his SWL placement. Leon accepted the offer and is now working casually with the recreational employer. This case study highlights the opportunities for collaboration across the LLEN network.

The success of SWL placements in securing ongoing employment opportunities for students is evident from the case studies discussed above. SWL placements allow students to gain practical experience, demonstrate their skills and work ethic, and make valuable connections with potential employers. These placements often lead to further employment opportunities in the form of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, casual work, or full-time apprenticeships/traineeships. Hence, SWL placements are an effective way of preparing students for the workforce while also providing them with valuable employment opportunities.

2022 OELLEN PROGRAMS

WOMEN IN TRADES TOOL SKILLS DAY



OELLEN partnered with Empowered Women in Trades (EWIT) to deliver their Tools Skills Day events in local schools, aimed at introducing female and non-binary students to career pathways in traditionally male-dominated industries.

In 2022, two highly successful Tools Skills Day events were held with almost 100 students, leading to a greater understanding of the career pathways available in male-dominated industries. The positive feedback and interest from students and teachers demonstrate the value of this collaboration and the need for more initiatives like this in the future.



CIMET (Career Industry Manufacturing Engineering and Technology) is an initiative aimed at increasing young people's awareness of careers in the fields of manufacturing engineering and technology in a specific region.

The initiative brings together industry representatives and schools to collaborate and drive positive change for the region's youth.

CIMET hosts events and provides project updates, encouraging schools to get involved by offering tours to industry sites and new approaches to work experience. The ultimate goal is to inspire young people to pursue careers in these fields and help them acquire the necessary skills and knowledge for success.

Through this initiative, CIMET hopes to address the skills gap and workforce shortages in the manufacturing engineering and technology industries, which are critical to the economic success of the region. The program serves as a platform for collaboration, innovation, and career exploration, empowering young people to achieve their full potential and contribute to the region's growth and development.



Tailored Programs

OELLEN works with schools to tailor school to work programs to their needs. One such program was The Coffee Bus in 2022. A barista training program was implemented for interested students from year levels 9-12 at Healesville High School, with 32 students participating over 2 days. 30 students achieved over a 95% pass rate on their knowledge course for both Barista and Food Handlers. OELLEN and the school intend to develop a social enterprise program, where profits from coffee sales cover the training costs yearly, building young peoples employability skills, practical skills, and self-confidence.



2022 OELLEN PROGRAMS



Project Ready was a 12-month program that aimed to provide students with a certificate II in Active Volunteering. The program was completed by 9 students from Eastern Ranges School and 14 students from Melba Secondary College. Under OELLEN supervision, both schools worked on community projects and completed work placements.

They built garden beds, participated in Clean Up Australia Day, and built a brick pizza oven and seating area for students. Stakeholders such as Bunnings, Plantmark, and Yarra View Nursery were involved. The program also included excursions to St Vincent's Op shop, Nadrasca, and Waverley industries, where students gained insight into volunteering. Volunteer speakers from Eastern Volunteers and volunteer gardeners helped students with their projects, and students built lasting friendships within the group.

OUTER EASTERN YOUTH CAREER EXPOS

Four key career events were held with the aim of providing young people with invaluable opportunities to hear from career advice experts, meet with employment services, learn about local industries and connect with employers offering open roles.

These events served as platforms for young people to gain valuable insights into different industries and understand the requirements and expectations of different roles. The attendance at these events increased over the year, indicating a growing interest and awareness of the benefits of increased career knowledge and the importance of making meaningful connections with local employers.

The benefits of attending these events extended beyond just gaining knowledge and exposure to different industries. Young people also developed a better understanding of the local job market and the skills that are in high demand in their community. Through the exposure to local employers and their opportunities, students were better equipped to identify the skills required to secure jobs in their community, which in turn helps build a stronger local economy.



Thank you to our partners



Education
and Training

