



# Annual Report 2018





## Board Members

|               |                                            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Chair:        | Helene Rooks, VALA                         |
| Deputy Chair: | Lou Zarro, City of Knox                    |
| Treasurer:    | Mark Heuston, Croydon Community School     |
| Secretary:    | Jo Priest, MEGT (resigned)                 |
| Director:     | Bronwyn Harcourt, Croydon Community School |
| Director:     | Rosina Fotia, Lilydale Heights College     |
| Director:     | Allan Rennick, Healesville High            |
| Director:     | Linda Kearley, Swinburne                   |
| Director:     | Janet Claringbold, MDLC                    |
| Director:     | Adam Cooper, City of Maroondah             |
| Director:     | Helen Ruddell, Shire of Yarra Ranges       |
| Director:     | Heidi Tucker, Anchor                       |
| Director:     | Lea Jones, Swinburne                       |

## Staff

|                         |                                                                |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| CEO:                    | Fiona Purcell                                                  |
| Project Officers:       | Cherie Messerle and Jennifer Royle                             |
| SWL:                    | Sharon Neal, Jasmine Mishra, Cheryl Barr and Patricia Johnston |
| Office Manager:         | Debra Ceko                                                     |
| Communications Officer: | Jesse Boyd                                                     |



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# About OELLEN

OELLEN is one of 31 Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) established by the State Government in response to recommendations made in the Kirby Report Ministerial Review of Post Compulsory Education and Training Pathways in Victoria in 2000. The goal of each of Victoria's 31 LLENs continues to be to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people 10- 24 by increasing opportunities for their engagement and participation, attainment and successful transition to further education, training or employment. OELLEN was incorporated in February 2002.

LLENs have a focus on young people who are at risk of disengaging or who have already disengaged from education and training and are not in full time employment.

have been a strong influence in the education and training sector in Victoria since 2001.

OELLEN covers the local Government areas of Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges. Members include representation from education and training, community, local government, business and employment, parents and carers. Partners are drawn from a wide number of organisations and individuals across the region.

## The OELLEN plan for 2018 had three main goals and three key stakeholders - teachers, students (particularly the most vulnerable,) and employers to:

### Increase local schools' understanding of:

- Employability skills, employment growth trends, skill shortage areas and training options
- Current best practice in career development, including career Action Plans and pathway models
- Potential local industry opportunities and connections
- Strengthen the connection between local industry and schools through:
  - Building the capacity of local industry to embed school engagement in their planning and recruitment
  - Raising the profile of emerging industries locally to support future employment
  - Upskilling local employers around the benefits and processes for engaging with schools and youth

## Improve the educational engagement, retention, attainment and aspirations of young people in the outer east of Melbourne with a focus on the following target groups for 2018-2019, but not limited to;

- Aboriginal young people
- EAL and Refugee young people
- Young People in Out of Home Care
- Young people with additional needs
- Young people enrolled in 6 government schools in the Yarra Ranges
- Female students, especially in STEM and traditionally male dominated industries and pathways

### The Outer Eastern Region in 2018 had;

- 3,953** students identified as disadvantaged across 23 government secondary schools
- 1,028** EAL students across 20 government secondary schools
- 223** ATSI students across 22 government secondary schools
- 526** PSD students across 23 government secondary schools
- 1,643** VET students across 18 government secondary schools
- Significant** pockets of above-average disadvantage

### OELLEN holds the following funding agreements with the Victorian Department of Education

**The Local Learning and Employment Network Partnership Brokering Funding** is to broker sustainable partnerships (within the individual LLEN's boundary) that increase the rate of secondary school aged students who are engaged in education or training. This contributes to the overall aim of increasing the proportion of young people who stay in education and complete year 12 or a vocational equivalent.

**The Structured Workplace Learning Program** works with secondary schools and local employers to source hosts for work placements for structured workplace learning and school based apprenticeships and traineeships. A web based portal is used to list the placement opportunities for students and schools to search.

**On Track Connect** delivers follow-up activities within the LLEN area in accordance with the 2018 On Track connect Guidelines



### Our Vision

All young people in the outer east of Melbourne have access to education, training and employment opportunities.

### Our Mission

To facilitate local partnerships that enable young people in OELLEN's region to be effectively engaged in school and to transition successfully into further education, training or employment.

### Our Purpose

OELLEN exists to:



Drive solutions through partnerships in the community to improve outcomes, particularly for vulnerable young people, and connect them to opportunities via the development of real world skills; preparing them for the careers of the future.



Broker collaborative partnerships between local organisations that result in improved education and training outcomes for young people, in particular, those at risk of not making successful transitions.

Strategic Goals OELLEN exists to:



Initiate local, coordinated and future focused approaches to work readiness, career learning and development for all young people based on a positive education approach.



Facilitate community actions that ensure all young people not maximising education and training opportunities are monitored and appropriately supported into meaningful education, training and employment options.



Develop and sustain an organisation that drives place-based, community strengthening, and responsive initiatives informed by evidence and aligned to current and emerging community needs.

# Chair's Report

This is my first year as Chair of OELLEN Board of Directors and I want to begin by thanking all who have contributed to the work of the Board over the last 12 months. It has been a privilege to be part of the Board over the last year as there is such a wealth of skill, knowledge and insights evident.

All OELLEN Board members are volunteers who provide their extensive experience to support the governance, strategic planning and policy directions of OELLEN.

The 2018 OELLEN Finance and Audit committee, comprised of Mark Heuston (Treasurer), Lou Zarro (Deputy Chair), Fiona Purcell (CEO), Debra Ceko (Administration), Russell Smith (Accountant) and myself meet prior to each Board meeting to ensure all 'checks and balances' add up and the organisation continues to meet all legislative requirements under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

A sincere thank you to retiring members Bronwyn Harcourt and Joe Priest. Jo, who has been Public Officer/Secretary for OELLEN since 2009, has taken up a new position elsewhere. Bronwyn was one of the founding members of the LLEN in 2002. We would like to acknowledge her passionate and outstanding commitment to, and advocacy for, young people across our region.

In 2018 we welcomed Linda Kearley (Swinburne) and Heidi Tucker (Anchor), both adding to the diverse background and skill-set of our Board.

During 2018, I had the honour to be appointed as an Executive Representative of the 31LLEN Combined Chairs Council.

OELLEN, as part of the 31LLEN state wide network, serves a vital role in supporting the Department of Education and Training's strategic objectives and we continue to advocate and negotiate this to continue beyond 2019.

OELLEN is a vibrant organisation, made up of people passionate about increasing education and pathway opportunities for the most vulnerable young people in our region. We are very fortunate to have such a vibrant team of staff members led by our CEO Fiona Purcell. It is indeed Fiona's leadership and vision that keeps OELLEN in such high regards by our stakeholders. The board acknowledges your skill and enthusiasm and thanks you for your professionalism.

*Helene Rooks*

**Helene Rooks**  
Chair



# Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am pleased to report that the Outer Eastern LLEN once again had a successful year and met 2018 targets across our strategic objectives. As I look back over the year, it's clear that there is an increasing need to ensure that our young people are well prepared for the transition from schooling to further education, training or employment. The OELLEN makes an important contribution towards supporting the retention, attainment and transitions of young people in the Outer East. The development of partnerships and links between schools and the wider community increases the engagement of many of our most vulnerable young people, and OELLEN continued to broker partnerships across our region to enhance the educational attainment of these young people.

2018 was the third year of our current four- year funding cycle. The focus has been to broker partnerships between parents, students, schools, business and industry, to increase the understanding of the skills our young people will need in the future to access employment.

Work is changing. Local communities are grappling with economic change, and the new higher-skilled pathways are not well understood by young people, their parents, schools and communities. OELLEN, in partnership with the Maroondah careers group and the Box Hill and Swinburne Skills and Job Centres hosted 2 forums in November for parents and students to better understand Apprenticeships and Traineeships are. Many parents expressed thanks to OELLEN, indicating they were able to better understand these pathways for their young people. Additional activities to increase pathway awareness are planned for 2019. The State government announced an increase in the opportunity to further skill career teachers and OELLEN welcomes this opportunity.

OELLEN continues to partner with the OETTA group of Trade Training Centres to further promote training in areas of local skills needs. An inaugural Culinary Competition was held with fierce competition for the school 'Master Chef' title. Our thanks to the Chefs from Maha and the RACV Club for the inspiration they provided to students.

The SWL program continues to grow as schools access the opportunities provided on the portal. This is a State-wide portal which offers opportunities not only to local students, but also students across the metro and rural regions. In 2018, 219 students accessed this service and 378 employment opportunities were advertised. The strong alignment with VCAL and VCE allows students to now gain VCE units as part of their placement.

Thank to our many partners who have been willing to actively participate in projects to support our young people. This report pays tribute to the numbers of organisations and individuals who have made these partnerships possible.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of the OELLEN Board under the leadership of Helene Rooks. All positions are voluntary, and I thank them for their personal support and dedication to improved outcomes for our young people.

The input of our highly skilled and dedicated team of current staff members, Cherie, Cheryl, Pat and Debbie who continue to work tirelessly for young people across our region is invaluable. We farewelled Steve Merry in 2018 and wish him well in his future endeavours. Steve had been instrumental in establishing the SWL program for OELLEN as well as managing a part time position for the Department of Education in the same area. Sharon Neal has taken over the role of SWL manager. We welcomed Jasmine Mishra and Jenny Royle to the team during the year.

Ida Lloyd completed some initial research on a project for 2019 to support school/industry engagement for six government schools in the Yarra Valley and we look forward to progressing this.

In 2018 we were fortunate to host a Masters Student from Deakin, Thevini Kirupakaran who completed some initial research into how our young people are transitioning to further education, training or employment, as part of her Masters program. We are very grateful for her highly skilled research abilities as this will now inform further work as part of the Jobs for Youth project in the Eastern Metropolitan Partnerships. Research in 2019 should further inform where the potential pathways to jobs of the future are.

Jesse Boyd continues as our Communications Officer. The outreach of the LLEN has increased significantly through this communication channel. Social media has enabled OELLEN to extend our reach and connections. OELLEN continues to advocate for the most vulnerable youth in our region to increase their opportunities to connect, engage and continue to transition to education, training or employment that suit their needs.

*Fiona Purcell*

**Fiona Purcell**  
CEO





# Partnerships for Careers

OELLEN partnered with the local Skills and Job Centres at Box Hill Institute and Swinburne to plan and implement programs to assist young people in career development and post-school transition to further education, training and employment. This collaboration included two events to engage young people with industry and provide better understanding of Apprenticeships and the benefits of undertaking a in a range of industry areas.

Collectively, 130 young people and their parents registered to attend the sessions which included presentations from Skills and Job Centre staff, local employers, Australia Industry Group, training organisations, Apprenticeship Centres and inspirational Australian Apprenticeship Ambassadors, Sevag Parseghian (Auto), Dayne Robinson (Floristry), Melinda Jeffery (Engineering) and Steven Jeffery (Building).

Both events were held in small theatre settings at Box Hill Institute Lilydale Campus and Swinburne Wantirna. These provided a relaxed, informal environment which encouraged participants to interact with the presenters and seek information relevant to their situation. Representatives from each participating organisation had set up tables in the foyer and following the presentations, participants were able to seek further information.

One young man had just completed year 12 having done a pre-apprenticeship in Building and Construction during Year 11. He was keen to pursue a career as a carpenter and approached Christina from MEGT to discuss potential opportunities. He was provided with a list of employers to contact, and within two days had been offered a trial placement. From this, he was offered an Apprenticeship and will be attending trade school at TAFE to achieve his dream to be a great carpenter. A further two young people who attended the sessions have also commenced Apprenticeships.

In addition to the apprenticeship events, the partnerships also provided opportunity for career teachers and students to learn about future employment predictions, current recruitment practices and how to identify personal strengths and skills to build a Resume.

Feedback from participants was extremely positive and highlighted the impact that could be achieved through strategic partnerships between government funded initiatives.





# Structured Workplace Learning Report



OELLEN exceeded its stated target of 266 advertised positions by 112, offering a total of 378 advertised positions in 2018 (142%). The SWL team continued to connect and engage with local industry to build the number of Host employers on the SWL Portal, adding a further 64 employers to the list. Most notably 20 new construction industry employers were posted onto the SWL portal. OELLEN's relationships with local employers continued to grow, with a number offering multiple placement opportunities.

It is a continuous challenge engaging local private and public hospitals to provide Allied Health SWL opportunities for students. During 2018, two hospitals offering SWL placements in the OELLEN region underwent staff and management changes and withdrew from the SWL portal, preferring to focus on university student placements. OELLEN is continuing to source opportunities for students in this industry.

## SWL Breakfast

OELLEN continued to engage with our SWL stakeholders, once again hosting the annual OELLEN SWL breakfast. The event attracted 58 guests including local employers, local secondary school VET and VCAL teachers and Principals teachers and representatives from the Department of Education and Training.

## SWL Industry Tours

To highlight local SWL and SBAT opportunities, OELLEN organised an Engineering industry tour for schools to see first-hand how local companies are operating and keeping pace in a competitive global market. Participants commented that it was really interesting and opened a range of possibilities.

## Statistics

### In 2018:



378

placement opportunities were posted by OELLEN on the Portal



219

students were placed by OELLEN through the SWL Portal



51

Secondary Schools outside the OELLEN area had students access OELLEN sourced work placements



139

host employers were signed up by OELLEN to the SWL Portal

### Since the SWL portal launch in May 2016, OELLEN has:



Supported

45 eligible schools



Trained

and provided portal access to 138 school staff



Added

1,089 placement vacancies



Coordinated

447 placements for students from local schools



Collaborated

on an additional 72 placements for external students

# Keeley McGowan

## Keeley McGowan (Luther College) placement at Hewish Road Childcare, Croydon

Keeley is a Year 12 student from Luther College in Melbourne's Outer East. She is studying Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care as a VET course. It was last year (2018) that the teachers at Luther Secondary College suggested that Keeley try the SWL Portal to find her placement. Keeley soon found what she felt was the ideal opportunity - Hewish Road Childcare Centre. She was able to use the Portal to ask her teacher for assistance in making the initial connection and then meet with Hewish Road Centre Director, Veronica Collins, to make placement arrangements. Keeley's initial one-week placement was so successful that it was extended for the rest of 2018 and is expected to continue for all of 2019.

In reflecting on her Structured Workplace Learning placement, Keeley remembers a host of learning opportunities and scenarios that she had neither expected nor planned for. These incidental but highly valuable lessons often form a large part of the learning experience when students embark on industry placement.

For Keeley, much of this learning related to the subtleties of working in the Childcare Industry. She says that her biggest challenge at the beginning was that she couldn't immediately do more of all the things she would liked to have done, due to her being a student. "But now..." she says with a big smile on her face, "I just love it, it's easy and its fun!"

Reflecting on how she has grown during her time on placement at the Centre, Keeley says "At the start I did think it would be a little bit less than what it is. I love kids so thought this will be great, I get to play with kids all day, I'll get to watch them and they're so cute. You realise after the first couple of days that's not at all what it is. There's a lot of running around etc. All the educators at Hewish Road were really helpful and welcoming. It was such a good experience for me as I was learning more about Early Childhood Education and what actually goes on other than what I'd heard and studied."

For the staff at Hewish Road Childcare, hosting Keeley did involve some additional planning. However, the benefits to Hewish Road Childcare included the ability to build further on the mentoring skills of their staff and the chance to raise the profile of the industry among young people.

Veronica Collins, the Centre Director of Hewish Road Childcare Centre, hugely values hosting school students on placements. She sees these placements as an opportunity to invest in future employees. She has been doing this for 23 years and had always had students at the Centre. She currently has a staff member who started at the Centre as student on a work placement 16 years ago and has progressed her Early Childhood career and now doing her Bachelors degree.

Veronica lists instilling self-confidence, students having a genuine interest in the industry, an active interest in learning and recognising work placements as a learning opportunity; as being some of the most important skills or attitudes for young people today as they begin to enter the workforce. She says "They need to have resilience. Resilience to get into an education setting and realise that it's not just playtime and to come back next day and do what they should be doing. We were lucky with Keeley. Keeley displayed a genuine interest and passion to continue her placement and career in this industry."

Keeley feels confident that her placement experience has confirmed that she is on the right career path. The combination of Keeley's positive attitude to learning and the support of an excellent host employer like Veronica has resulted in a fantastic outcome for this SWL placement.

As the SWL Portal continues to become further embedded in the practice of employers and schools, positive stories such as Keeley's are becoming more and more common, making the transition from schooling to the workplace smoother, whilst upskilling young people and developing a stronger workforce.



# On Track Connect



## VCAL

The Department of Education sent OELLEN details of 64 young people leaving school in 2017, (Year 12 Completers and Early School Leavers), and who were not working full time or studying at the time of completing the DET On Track survey. OELLEN attempted to contact a total of 54 Year 12 Completers and 8 Early School Leavers. These students had indicated they would like some further advice and support on pathways options and employment. A total of 83% of those initially requesting support were contacted, using a combined approach of phone, email and SMS.

Of those students contacted, many worked casually or part time, and were predominantly seeking advice on how to increase work hours or find post school training to follow their pathways. 40% had found work or training since completing the survey, with 60% still searching for more work or needing help with career planning. A large majority of those contacted were unaware of Skills and Jobs Centres, and how to get help and information on projected employment areas. A small percentage of students qualified for services such as Job Active if they registered with Centrelink, however most were not able to access employment services due to parental income.

Response to the survey may indicate a further systemic issue for a large cohort of young people who lack support if they do not qualify for Youth Allowance or other funding. On an individual level, the process directed students to local Skills and Jobs Centres, Centrelink, Learn Local transition programs and Employment Service Providers in the region. It is important to note that in almost every case, those contacted through On Track Connect preferred to be sent information and to contact agencies independently, rather than having appointments made on their behalf. This resulted in fewer formal referrals for DET data collection which may not reflect the overall needs for this group of young people.

### Professional Development for Teachers

OELLEN continued to support VCAL teachers through a number of professional learning workshops. The Induction Day held early Term 1 for new VCAL teachers and coordinators provided more than twenty new teachers and coordinators with practical information and resources to assist in quality provision across VCAL in the Outer East. Survey Monkey feedback indicated all participants had increased their understanding of applied learning and learned strategies which they had immediately implemented in the classroom.

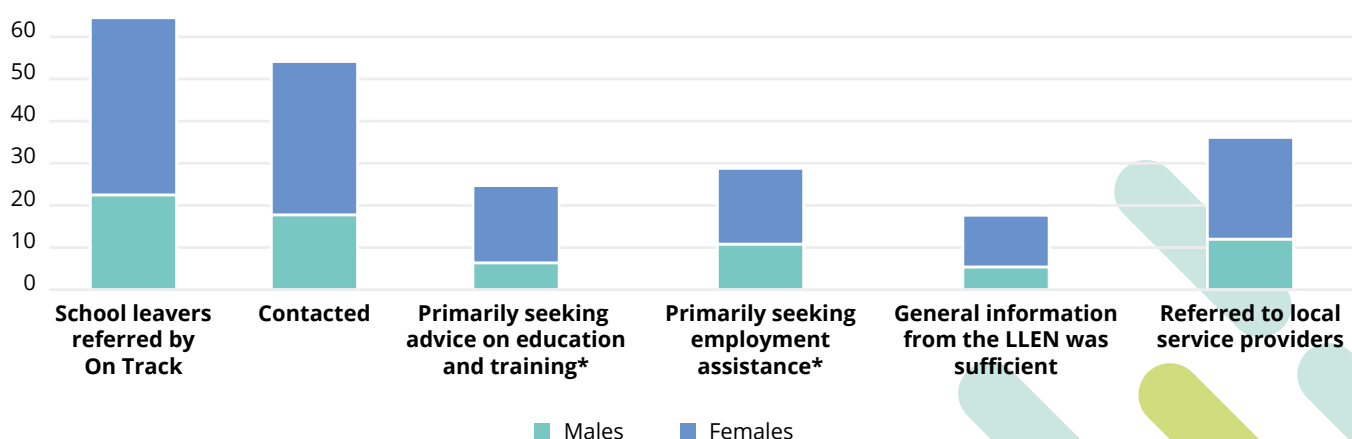
A further workshop was held mid- year to inform teachers of changes to the Numeracy and Literacy Strands to be introduced in 2019. Thirty-six teachers attended and feedback surveys registered a high level of satisfaction with the content and delivery of information. Many participants stated that they had a much greater understanding and felt better equipped to implement the program, particularly with the significant changes to Numeracy.

OELLEN is particularly appreciative of the time and effort put in by the Eastern Metropolitan VCAL Liaison Teacher and Quality Assurance Facilitator, Loretta Goldsmith and QA panel member Tyson McNamara. Both have given freely of their time to assist colleagues achieve the best possible outcomes for their VCAL students.

### Networks

There was a significant increase in the number of members accessing the OELLEN on-line VCAL Network for teachers and coordinators to post questions and share ideas and resources. There was a reduction in the number of VCAL Network meetings in 2018 due to time constraints.

### On Track Connect 2018 Aggregate Data





# VCAL Achievement Award

## Congratulations to our 2018 OELLEN VCAL Achievement Award recipients.

### The Senior VCAL Achievement Award was presented to Amber Johnson, a student at Mater Christi College.

Amber was described as an outstanding leader of the senior VCAL team across all disciplines, excelling in communication, initiative, planning and organising, teamwork and problem solving.

She demonstrated outstanding personal achievement across all VCAL Strands and enlisted the assistance of her intermediate VCAL peers for her senior project, sourcing and crocheting Octopuses for premature babies in support of "Octopus for a Premie", a world-wide movement dedicated to knitting and crocheting octopuses and jellyfish for premature babies. She created a template for the construction of the Octopuses and demonstrated step by step how to make the crocheted animals.

Her skills and achievements were also evident in her role as CEO of the small business initiative 'Roar Espresso' and promotion of the Emerald/Monbulk Wildlife Centre across the whole school community.

### The Intermediate VCAL Achievement Award went to Elaya Carbone, who is completing her VCAL Certificate at Monbulk College.

Elaya also demonstrated outstanding personal achievement across all VCAL Strands. She earned the respect of teachers and colleagues alike for her vision and dedication. She was instrumental in developing the "Commonwealth Games" activity for the Menzies Creek Primary School and helped fellow students to plan and organise the event and drew up the timetable for the day. In addition, Elaya ran the kitchen for the Veteran's breakfast, using her planning and organising skills to work out the teams, create the menu and budget, and managed the running of the kitchen on the day. She was also a key organiser of the Mental Health Fair which took place in Term 3. She organised student groups, sourced external stall providers, organised the ticketing system and took on the role of Master of Ceremonies for the event.



### The VCAL Community Project Team Achievement Award was given to Lilydale Heights College students Breanna Bowers, Brent Norfolk, Chelsea Austin, Graham Burdett, John Lay and Kyle St Clair for their Redwood Community Centre Project.

The students visited the facility and after gaining insight into the programs and support services being provided, investigated ways in which they could offer support through a VCAL Community Project. From this, the students undertook to run the annual winter clothing drive and to refurbish the playground area. To achieve this, the students needed to work collaboratively as a team and allocate roles according to their individual skills.

Refurbishment of the playground required re-mulching to required safety levels and sanding and staining the equipment and cubby house. Students ran formal meetings and kept minutes, allocated tasks, planned travel and excursions to Redwood adhering to all school protocols, organized bark delivery and the purchase of paint and materials.

Planning and implementing the coat drive required creation of a poster for social media, websites and businesses to encourage donations of clothing, liaison with local businesses to act as drop off points, and picking up, sorting, washing and delivering donations on a regular basis. It was the most successful coat drive for Redwood Community Centre.

Through successfully completing their project they demonstrated outstanding achievement in teamwork, communication skills, problem solving and initiative.



Redwood Cubby House before and after refurbishment by Lilydale Heights College VCAL students

# Outer Eastern Trade Training Alliance

The OELLEN facilitated Trade Training Alliance continued to meet regularly in 2018 to work collaboratively on developing and promoting vibrant and robust VET programs targeted at local industry needs. A key focus is to encourage more female participation in traditionally male dominated trades. The VET trainers across the industry areas delivered in the Alliance schools conducted moderation sessions to promote quality and consistency and fairness across the Alliance provision.



## OETTA Events

### OETTA Culinary Challenge

On a characteristically cold summer afternoon in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne things were heating up inside the Wurundjeri Trade Training Centre Kitchen.

The facilities, located at Aquinas College in Ringwood, usually used for students undertaking Certificate II in Hospitality and Kitchen Operations, on this afternoon was the stage for a culinary battle between Trade Training Centre students from Ranges TEC - Lilydale, Belgrave Heights - Belgrave and Wurundjeri Trade Training in Ringwood. The rules were simple, cook a main dish using chicken as the primary ingredient and a dessert using white chocolate (supplied by Yarra Valley Chocolate) as the primary ingredient. Four teams of three students worked against the clock to deliver a delectable dish to be judged by two highly qualified chefs - Daniel Girado, Chef at Age Good Food Guide Chefs hat Maha Restaurant owned by Shane Delia and Albert de Lorenzis, Senior Corporate Chef, UNOX Australia. Congratulations to the Ranges TEC team, winners of the inaugural OETTA culinary competition trophy.

### Technology, Trades, Technicians Grade 5 STEM Taster Days

OELLEN OETTA members, Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC) and Yarra Valley Polytechnic Centre invited Grade 5 students from across the Outer East of Melbourne to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Trade Tasters. The event was held over three days and attracted over 400 students. This is the second year the OELLEN has sponsored the event and it proved to be another major success. At Healesville High School, the students experienced hands on activities in woodworking and automotive technology. The students made key ring holders and chopping boards which they took home. At KIOSC, the participants had a wide range of opportunities including, Engineering, Electrotechnology, Laboratory Skills, ICT, Health Sciences, Horticulture and Photography. A highlight of the day was using Virtual Reality headsets to do virtual plumbing! It was a blast for the children to be able to use cutting-edge technology to learn about trades.



# Strengthening Pathways for Young People with Disabilities

In 2018 OELLEN commenced a two-year plan to strengthen and inform best practice for students, teachers and community focusing on transitions and pathways for young people with disabilities. This includes physical, psychological and cognitive disabilities which may result in disadvantage and barriers to employment and further training.

There are approximately 26,948 young people in Victorian Schools with a disclosed disability, or approximately 4.35% of the total student population. Over half of those students attend a Government mainstream school, while 12,089 attend one of the specialist schools for disabilities (DET, Summary Statistics for Schools, 2018). OELLEN has identified students with a disability as one of our targeted cohorts to support transition planning and connect with services and networks to achieve better outcomes for young people in our region.



## Enabling Young Women Leadership Program

OELLEN participated in the reference group for Enabling Young Women Leadership Program, along with Women with Disabilities Victoria, Women's Health East, Yarra Ranges Council and Knox Council, to develop and deliver the Enabling Young Women Leadership Program in the Outer East. This is the second time the program has been delivered in Victoria, and the first time in the Outer East. The program was open to young women with a disability in Knox or Yarra Ranges LGA, aged 15-25, to attend for one day per week for six weeks across Oct-Nov, and explored access to services, health, advocacy development, community voice and building leadership capacity. OELLEN assisted in recruiting the co-facilitator position for the program, which was a paid work position for a young woman with a disability.

## Supporting Career Conversations PD, Glen Park Community Centre

OELLEN hosted a Professional Learning Day for teachers, community educators and disability employment providers currently working with young people with disabilities in the Outer East. The workshop focused on strengthening career conversations, building aspirations, accessing real work experience opportunities and current information on NDIS funding and supports. Presenters and workshops included Gail Preston (Think Organize Do), Michelle Wakeford (Ticket to Work), Rose Juan (La Trobe Health Services (NDIS)), and Belinda Allwood (Knoxbrooke Achieve). The event was attended by 40 people from the region, with 83% of participants agreeing that it exceeded their expectations 'by a great extent'. The event highlighted strong support for further sessions focusing on transitions and work experience opportunities for young people with disabilities.

See Survey Monkey results  
[www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-9BX3RXP8](https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-9BX3RXP8)



## Secondary/Primary PSD Coordinators Meetings DET

OELLEN presented at both the Secondary and Primary Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) coordinators meetings with DET Regional Disabilities Coordinator Outer East, Lisa Walker. Teachers were surveyed on what resources the LLEN could develop to assist teacher, families and students and what areas they would like further information regarding transitions and pathways planning for their students with disabilities. Many support staff and teachers from the PSD network have indicated support for a transition focused network for students with disabilities in the Outer Eastern area.

## Back to Basics Expo

OELLEN helped to develop the 2018 Back to Basics Careers Expo for People with a Disability. The event was developed through partnership with the NDCO program (IMVC), Metro Access Officers from Whitehorse City Council and Monash Council, OELLEN and Gateway LLEN, to provide career information and pathways options for young people and adults with disabilities and their families. Twenty organizations from region participated in an information share, including Knoxbrooke, EPIC, Swinburne, Knox City Council, APM and Matchworks from the Outer East. Forum sessions included Strength Based Career Planning, NDIS links to Education and Employment, Learn Local, Disability Support in TAFE/University (Swinburne) SLES and Australian Disability Enterprises (Knoxbrooke) and Disability Employment Services (APM). OELLEN facilitated the forum sessions.

## DARE Workshop

OELLEN hosted a workshop for teachers and employers focusing on helping young people with disabilities develop post school pathways, and to promote inclusion and workforce diversity in their cultures. This workshop was delivered the DARE awareness program, (Disability Aware and Ready to Engage), funded through the NDIA, and facilitated by Suzanne Diprose. The workshop addressed the impact of disabilities on career planning, barriers to work placements and short-term employment opportunities, difficulties for young people to retain work/study with disabilities, mental illness, supportive work environments and customized employment.

### Sources

ABS, 4430.0 - *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015* <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4430.0Main+Features1022015?OpenDocument>

DET, Summary Statistics For Victorian Schools, July 2018, <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/department/brochurejuly.pdf>



# Youth Initiative Providers Network

The OELLEN Youth Initiative Providers Network met each term to discuss how young people were faring from the perspective of their individual organisations. The network provides opportunity for collaboration, sharing of experience and challenges; and a platform for discussion on strategies to achieve better outcomes for young people in the OELLEN Region

The network is made up of organisations delivering current government funded youth initiatives and includes representatives from the Skills and Job Centres, headspace Knox, Mountain District Learning Centre, Transition to Work and Reconnect programs, Maroondah, Knox and Yarra Ranges Youth Services, Department of Education and Training, The Salvation Army, Anchor Child and Family Services the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare and Disability Employment Services.





# Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Advisory

**OELLEN was invited to participate in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation (SAKGF) Advisory Group for their recently developed Secondary School Kitchen Garden Pilot Program**

The model will extend the successful Primary School program into Australian secondary schools and assist even more young people to form positive food habits for life. The project aims to create a tailored package of professional development, educational resources and support for secondary school educators based on the same philosophy of pleasurable food education that underpins the successful Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program model. We look forward to following progress of the pilot programs with a view to seeing the SAKG model introduced into secondary schools across the country.

# OELLEN External Network Participation

In addition to OELLEN facilitated Networks (OETTA, YIP and VCAL), the team contributes to a wide range of youth focused networks within Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges. This participation is invaluable in identifying potential partnerships to support the educational outcomes for young people.

## Network participation includes:

Box Hill Institute Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander Advisory Group

Brighter Futures Transformation Pilot

Building Equitable Employment Network

DET Program for Students with Disabilities Network

Eastern Metro Partnership

Employment Services Provider Liaison Meetings

headspace Knox Advisory

Knox Careers Network

Knox Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing Committee

Knox Disability Partnerships Network

Maroondah Careers Group

Maroondah Partners in Community Wellbeing Committee

Maroondah Plus 10 Schools

National Ticket to Work Network

Outer East Community Inclusion Alliance

Outer Eastern Youth Service Providers Network

Yarra Ranges Tech School

Yarra Ranges Youth Round Table

Youth Opportunity Landscape

University of Melbourne ARC Research Project on the  
Effect of Positive Education on Post School Transition



# OELLEN Research and Resources



## OELLEN Regional Overview

The OELLEN Regional overview was updated. The key messages were:

### Increased Educational Attainment

Vocational and academic pathways are both important. A Year 12 minimum is now required for entry into most areas of employment and further education. There is a need to continue to strengthen Year 12 attainment, while also promoting employment pathways in the region for students wishing to pursue vocational education and training opportunities. This also includes continuing to strengthen schools' links with businesses in the key industry sectors in the region.

### Health Care and Social Assistance is an Important Sector

The Health Care and Social Assistance is a major employment sector in the OELLEN Region, and this sector is projected to continue to generate significant employment in the OELLEN Region and across Australia, with projected jobs growth of 250,500 (16.1 %) nationally to 2022. Factors contributing to strong projected growth in this sector include Australia's ageing population; increasing demand for childcare and home-based care services; and full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

### Higher Skills Required

Overall employment trends and projected job growth in Australia will demand higher skill levels. Employment growth over the past five years has largely been in occupations that generally require post-school qualifications, either through the VET or higher education sectors. This is a long term trend which is likely to continue, with the vast majority of jobs growth over the next five years projected to be in higher skilled occupations (Managers, Professionals, Technicians and Trades Workers and Community and Personal Service Workers).

### Employment for 15-19 year olds is becoming increasingly difficult

Long-term unemployment (LTU) is being disproportionately felt by youth, with many young people continuing to encounter difficulties trying to secure work and facing longer spells of unemployment. Five year employment projections suggest this trend will continue over the next five years, which highlights the importance of post school qualifications.

## OELLEN Jobs For Youth Research Project

OELLEN engaged the services of a Deakin University Masters student to investigate the current trends and future opportunities regarding employment for young people in the Outer Eastern Metropolitan Region. The research identified some key issues in the region surrounding youth unemployment, engagement and post-school transitions.

The Report identified some pockets of high youth unemployment and under employment across the Region, with 15% of early school leavers and 4.8% of Year 12 completers still seeking work 6 months after leaving school.

Across the OELLEN Region, there appeared to be a strong bias among parents, career educators, and teachers, towards university over vocational pathways, with only 21.5% of year 12 completers in 2017 attending a TAFE information session at school compared to 59.4% attending a university information session.

The report also highlighted the continuing lack of alignment between VET enrolments and areas of skill shortage. There are high numbers of students continuing to undertake VET Cultural & Recreation and fewer studying Automotive and Engineering VET courses.



## Get Linked

The Get Linked Guide for young people was updated in 2018. This directory provides information on Youth Services, Housing, Health and Counselling, Education, Employment, Career information, Public Transport and Volunteering.

# OELLEN Staff Professional Development

## Career Development Association of Australia (CDA) National Conference

With the theme of Career Adaptability and Meaningful Futures, it was not surprising that there was a diverse range of workshops on offer at the national conference.

Keynote speakers provided valuable data and insights into careers of the future and the ways in which young people can develop the capacity to adapt to a rapidly changing world of work.

Presentations such as the approaches being taken to support and develop employability skills in students enrolled in non-traditional education settings provided excellent ideas and resources for OELLEN to share with providers in the Outer East.

## LLEN Collaborative Planning

OELLEN staff visited the Glenelg and Southern Grampians LLEN to discuss programs and resources Anne Murphy and her team have implemented to support enhanced education outcomes for Aboriginal young people in their LLEN Region.

During the visit, OELLEN staff were privileged to visit the Winda-Mara Budj Bim Orientation Centre; the Budj Birn Indigenous Protective area; the Mission and Lake Condah.

During the tour we learned about the Gunditjmara people who are traditional owners of land extending from Portland, Port Fairy and Warrnambool along the coast and inland through Heywood across to Camperdown. The Gunditjmara people are traditionally river, and lake people, and Lake Condah and the surrounding river systems are of great spiritual importance.

It was exciting to see first-hand, the Budj Bim Cultural Heritage Landscape which has been nominated for inclusion on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List. The area is being managed for environmental and cultural values by local Traditional Owners.

Thousands of years ago, Lake Condah and surrounding wetlands were used by the Gunditjmara people to form channels to harvest eels, and remains of these intricate stone traps are visible at the site which is one of the oldest aquaculture sites in the world.

In 2007, the Gunditjmara achieved recognition of their heritage and identity through the Federal Court of Australia's Gunditjmara Native Title Consent Determination and Lake Condah was formally returned to Gunditjmara people by the State of Victoria in 2008.



# Digital Platform

As we entered our second year of engagement in social media, OELLEN registered significant growth in digital communications as we developed a clearer understanding of our on line audience. Our Digital communications have been particularly valuable for advertising the large number of OELLEN events and engaging with local stakeholders. It has also enabled the LLEN to share information and upcoming events being hosted by our many partners.

2018 also saw the revival of our Newsletters and the addition of a website blog which extended our audience beyond Twitter and Facebook.

## Statistics

### Twitter



98,200

impressions  
over 2018



245

followers



Followers

36% male  
64% female



Location

81% in Australia  
64% in Victoria



Audience

44% male  
56% female



625

subscribers

### Newsletter

### Facebook Friends



46

on Jan 1 2018



118

on Dec 31 2018  
(+139%)



Friends

28% male  
70% female



Location

118 from Victoria



Age

Majority between  
25-56

### Website

Since tracking commenced on September 1 the following statistics were recorded:



369

users



563

sessions



1,629

page views



7,700

impressions



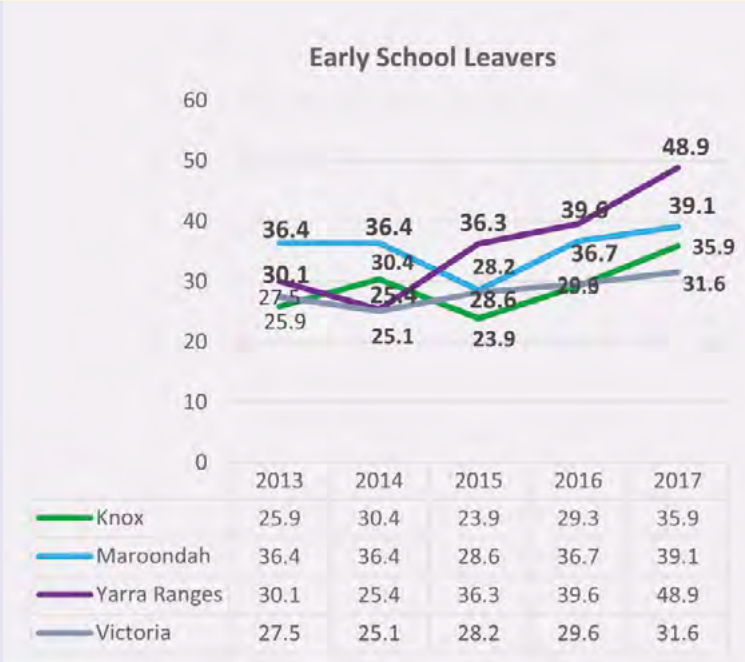
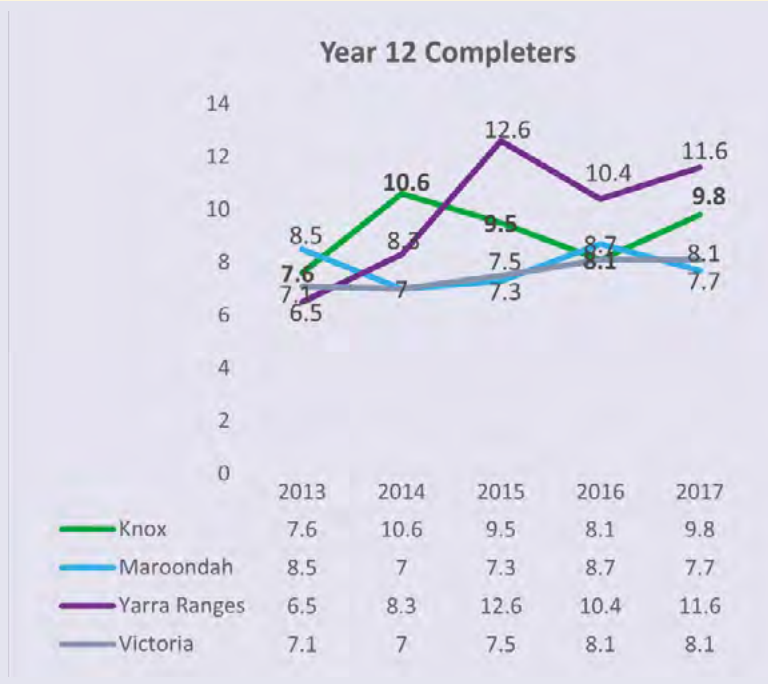
Visitors

The majority of visitors came directly from Google search term "OELLEN"



# Training trends for young people in the OELLEN Region

## Apprenticeship/Traineeship Trends in OELLEN 2013 - 2017



## Top 5 VET Choices



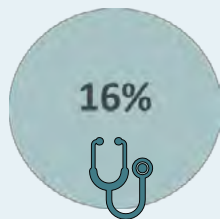
Building & Construction



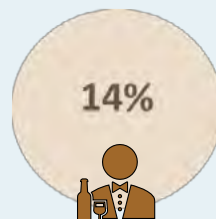
Cultural & Recreation:  
Recreation



17% Cultural & Recreation - Entertainment

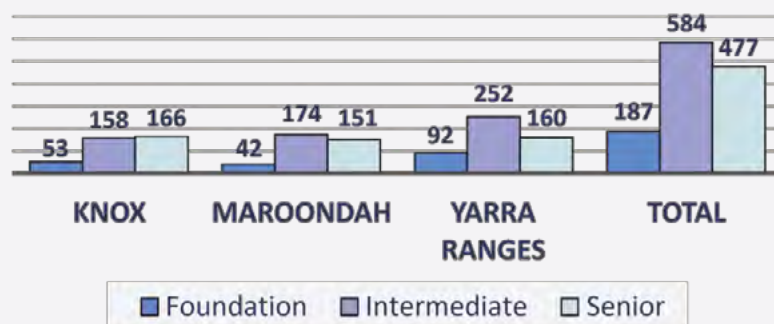


Community Services  
& Health



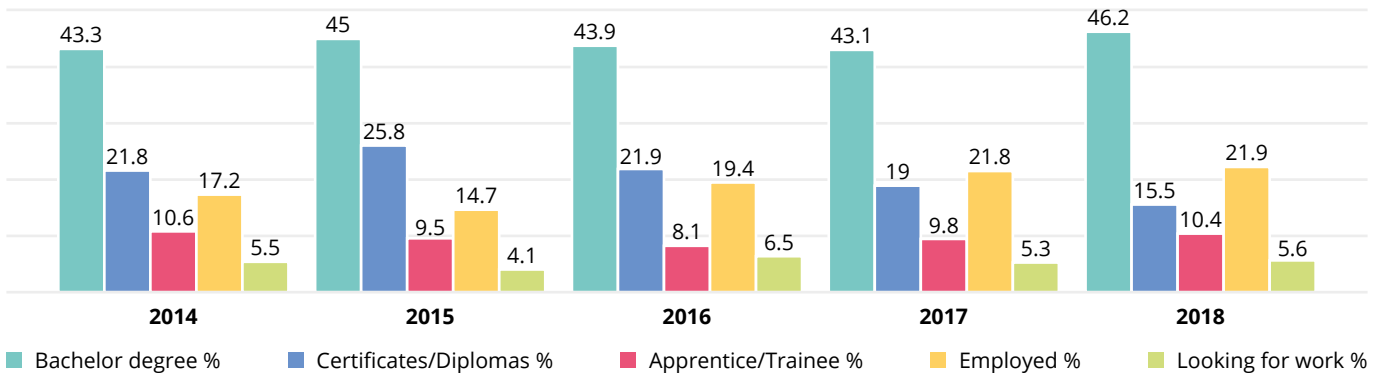
Hospitality, Tourism &  
Events

## 2017 OELLEN Region VCAL Enrolments

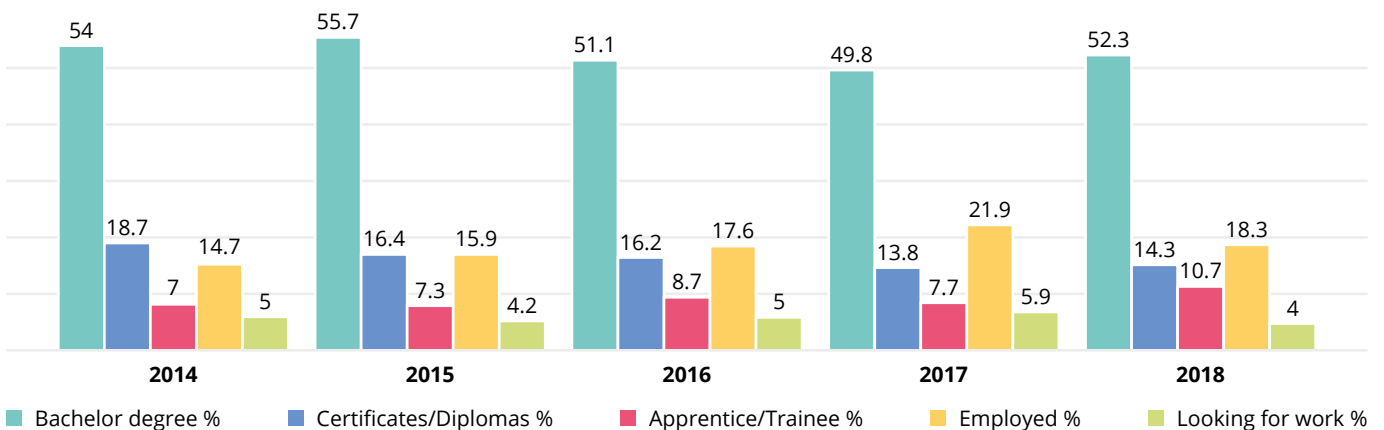


# Post-school Destination Data 2014-2018

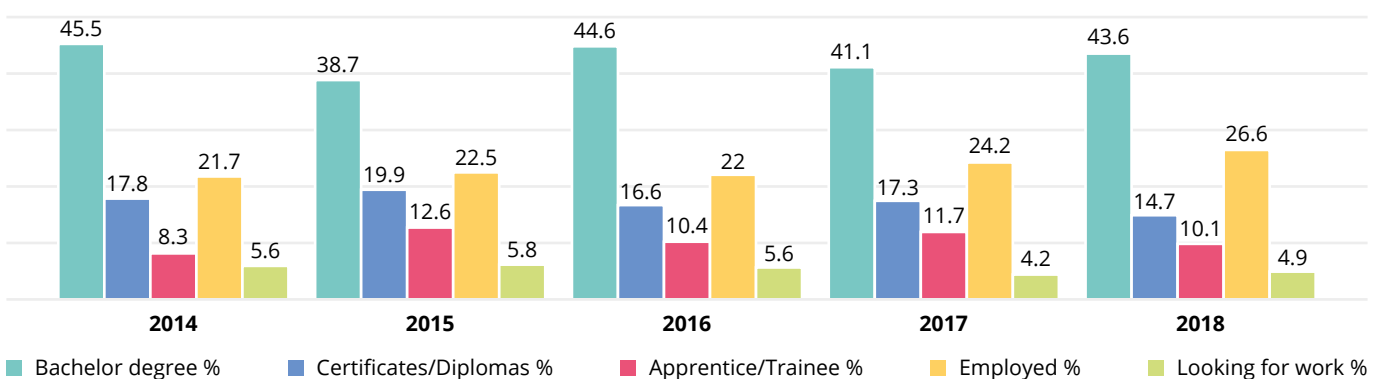
## Knox Year 12 Completers



## Maroondah Year 12 Completers

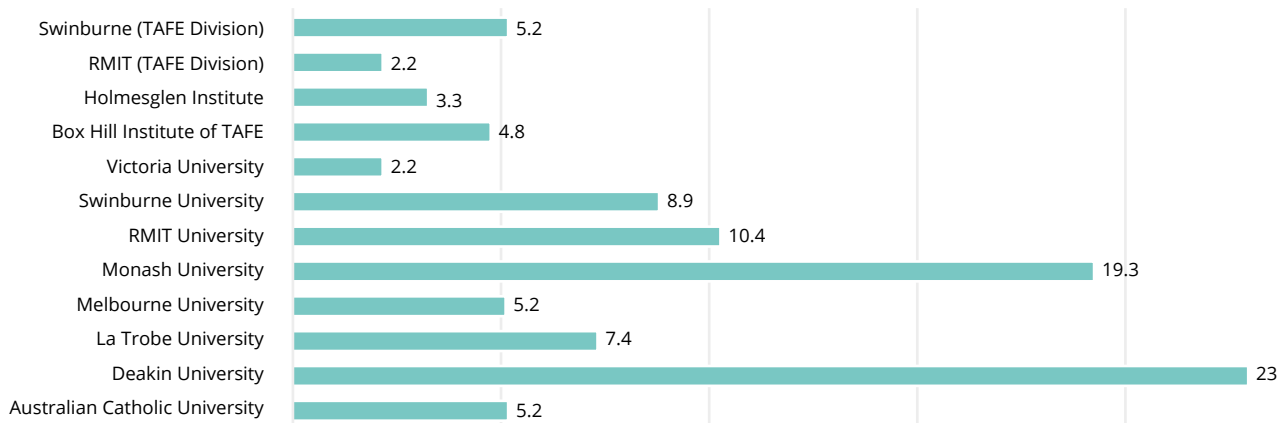


## Yarra Ranges Year 12 Completers

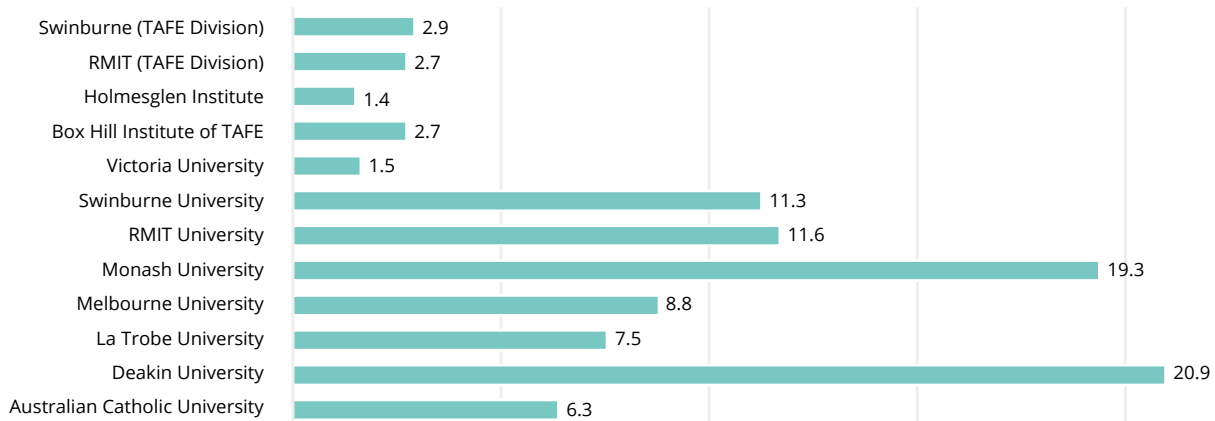


# 2018 University Enrolments

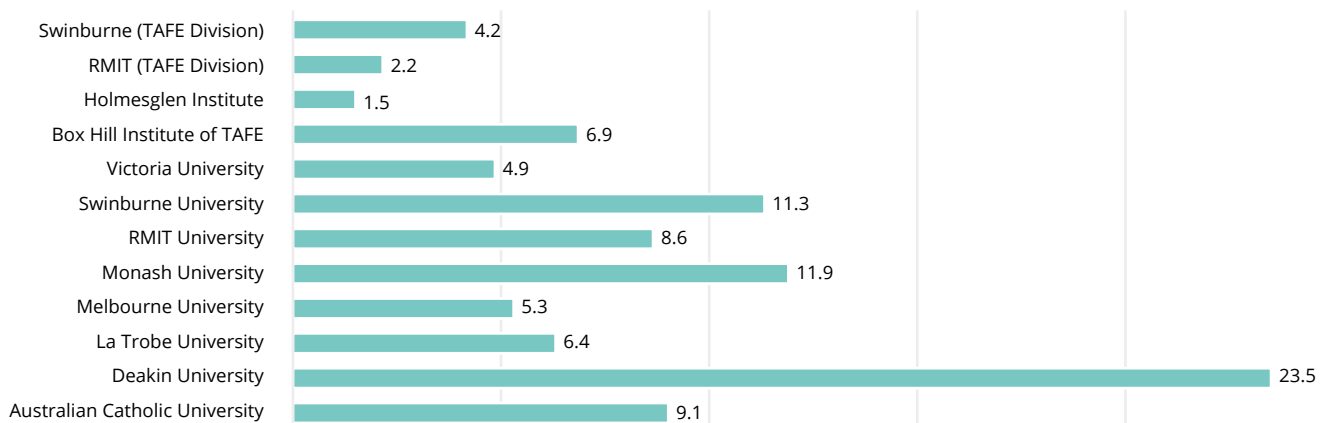
## 2018 Knox University Destinations



## 2018 Maroondah University Destinations



## 2018 Yarra Ranges University Destination



Source: 2018 On Track Report






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