

## 2. CECV 2022 VCAL Innovative Community Partnership Grant

### Eligibility

VCAL Innovative Community Partnership Grants (up to \$2,000 per school) are available to schools delivering the VCAL that can demonstrate how they plan to embark on a new and exciting approach to engage students in an innovative community partnership. Schools with more than 15 VCAL students in Years 11 and 12 in 2022 are eligible to apply for this funding support.

### Application process and funding

Schools that fall into the above category and are embarking on an innovative community partnership are invited to apply for funding support using the following procedures:

- Schools submit a **CECV 2022 VCAL Innovative Community Partnership Grant Application Form** (see **page 96** for information about how to access an electronic application form)
- Successful applicants will be forwarded a **CECV Interim Budget** template via email
- Schools return a completed **Interim Budget** template to the CECV, including:
  - budget details of the proposed overall cost to run the initiative
  - details of the way the initiative facilitates the involvement of the students in the broader community beyond the school and the potential for identified student outcomes
  - principal's endorsement of the initiative
- Payment of 75% of the CECV funding grant for the implementation of the Innovative Community Partnership following CECV receipt and approval of the **Interim Budget** template
- Final payment (the remaining 25%) will be triggered when the CECV receives a **Final Budget Report**, including an evaluation of the initiative (due November 2022), using the CECV template provided.

Copies of the Community Partnership Application Forms are available on the CEVN [website](#) under *Learning & Teaching / Curriculum / Pathways and Transition*.

Schools applying for Community Partnership Grants are encouraged to nominate for VCAL Achievement Awards.

### 2021 VCAL Innovative Community Partnership between Kilbreda College and Yarrabah School

The community partnership between Kilbreda College and Yarrabah School was established to enable students to undertake a project in an inclusive and positive educational setting. Our aim was to facilitate cooperative learning situations that allowed students to experience a connectedness that may otherwise have never occurred. The students collaborated mindfully and appreciatively. They worked towards generating an aesthetically welcoming and inviting entrance courtyard and servery at Yarrabah School. They designed and created original mosaic art pieces.

Throughout the project students enjoyed the opportunity to develop and consolidate their confidence and communication skills when working with new and diverse groups. Personal resilience was enhanced. The general excitement, cheerful atmosphere and interesting conversations encouraged everyone to listen with curiosity, learn with wonder and act with kindness. COVID-19 presented challenges along the way but in this instance, teamwork certainly made the dream work.

The students experienced the enrichment and growth in self-esteem that comes from completing a successful project – one that promotes various styles of learning and facilitates social inclusion. We all loved our time together.

On 15 December 2021, staff, students and parents from Kilbreda College and Yarrabah School gathered for the official unveiling of the mosaic art pieces. It was a wonderful celebration and the mosaic creations looked stunning.

*Jennifer Gamble (VCAL Leader, Kilbreda College, Mentone)*

*The images on page 71 depict planning for the project and one of the mosaic art pieces created through the community partnership. Please also see page 81 and page 97 for images of the unveiling of the mosaic art pieces.*

## 6.3 Community partnerships

The *School–Community Partnerships in Australian Schools* publication (Lonsdale 2011) highlights the mutual benefits of partnerships, as outlined in the following extract.

### Community and Business Organisations

Schools clearly benefit from the skills, resources, ideas, training, mentoring and support that community and business organisations can offer. There are many activities and programs that community and business groups could be doing to support schools and, in return, many ways in which they can also benefit, including raising their profiles and expanding the reach of their services to others in the community (Lonsdale 2011, p. 21).

### Developing community partnerships

Effective school community partnerships are those in which a school and a community partner or partners work together on shared goals to provide opportunities and experiences that benefit all participants. Schools can collaborate with a wide variety of community partners to achieve important goals for students' learning, including Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Personal Development Skills learning outcomes. Some of these partners may include:

- businesses and corporations
- national and local volunteer organisations
- social service agencies and health partners
- faith-based organisations and institutions
- local government agencies
- not-for-profit community organisations.

Community partnership activities or projects should be designed to reflect applied learning principles and should assist students to develop:

- confidence and self-esteem
- values of integrity, enterprise, excellence and social responsibility
- active citizenship and volunteerism.

### Sourcing ideas for a community partnership

There are a number of ways to identify possible community partnerships:

- identify connections that your school may already have with the local community
- check for community links which might exist already through the school's parent body
- identify any school community projects/partnerships currently happening
- investigate the type of activities/projects that have won VCAL Achievement Awards in the past
- check with volunteer organisations for possible projects, e.g. St Vincent de Paul Society, Apex, Rotary and Lions Clubs
- investigate local events which may need support, e.g. Blaze Aid
- research opportunities that organisations such as Red Cross, Scope, Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) and Cancer Council might provide.



*Unveiling of one of the mosaic art pieces created through the 2021 VCAL Innovative Community Partnership between Kilbreda College (Mentone) and Yarrabah School (see pp. 70–71 and also p. 97).*