



Annual Report 2021/22

As we celebrated our 20th year of 'making the outcomes for young people everyone's business', Central Ranges LLEN also responded to the shifting needs of employers and schools due to COVID impacts. We built on past successes and invented new and innovative ways to support young people on their journeys from school to work.



WORK PLACEMENTS

The impact of COVID-19 made placements both more important and more scarce than ever before - while many businesses remained in survival mode and had limited capacity for supervision, they were facing unprecedented workforce shortages. Despite these challenges, Central Ranges LLEN facilitated a record 202 structured workplace learning (SWL) placements and maintained opportunities with 177 local employers.

PROJECT READY

Over 100 local students developed work readiness skills while completing Certificate II in Active Volunteering as part of our award-winning Project Ready initiative. Based on a trauma-informed approach and using a relational pedagogy, Project Ready has been positively redefining the school experience for students who are at risk of disengagement or who would benefit from a broader range of industry and community engagement opportunities.

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Our local partners and sponsors have played a critical role over the past year, ensuring that students and schools can continue to access meaningful opportunities with industry and community organisations. We'd particularly like to thank Department of Education and Training, School Focused Youth Service, Nestle, Ventia, Wallan & Kilmore Community Bank, Gisborne & District Community Bank and the Shires of Mitchell, Macedon Ranges and Murrindindi.

SCHOOL TO WORK SUMMIT

Central Ranges LLEN played a leading role in the inception, planning and delivery of the School to Work Summit held on 31 March 2022. The Summit brought together educators, industry leaders and LLENs to improve outcomes for all students and young people. With over 570 participants, the Summit has generated significant positive engagement with LLENs across the state.

EVENTS

In 2021, we delivered a record 206 events, including training interviews, guest speakers, work readiness training, industry tours, design thinking, community volunteering and mentoring.

VOCATIONAL MAJOR

Central Ranges LLEN has been committed to supporting the implementation of the new VCE Vocational Major, bringing the voices of educators, industry and young people to the table. We will continue to support schools in managing this transition and responding to new opportunities as they arise.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In our COVID-responsive world, some things now look different, yet many things remain the same. Young people continue to have the capacity to enrich workplaces, but employers need more ways to connect with them. Central Ranges LLEN is committed to mobilising our existing place-based partnerships and building new ones in support of all young people having a great pathway from school to work.

Our performance in 2021:

15



Collaborated with 15 secondary schools across our three shires, including government, catholic, independent, flexible learning, specialist and youth justice settings

177



Secured opportunities with 177 employers in the following industries:

- Hospitality (37)
- Construction (36)
- Retail and Personal Services (36)
- Community Services and Health (33)
- Agriculture (25)
- Business Services (23)
- Automotive (16)
- Transport and Logistics (10)
- Manufacturing and Engineering (9)
- Sports and Recreation (9)
- Information Technology and Communications (6)
- Creative Arts and Culture (4)

(Some employers appear in more than one category)

20



Redeveloped and expanded Project Ready to 20 schools in our region and across Victoria, in partnership with 6 LLENs

202



Facilitated 202 structured workplace learning (SWL) placements for students

206



Delivered 206 events and activities in person and online, including:

- Careers Quick Meets
- Student Training Interviews
- Guest Speakers
- Work Readiness Sessions
- Industry Tours and Tasters
- Design Thinking Workshops
- Community Volunteering Projects
- One-On-One and Group Mentoring
- Training for Students and Staff in Workplace Health and Safety, White Card, First Aid, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Group Facilitation, Child Safety Standards and Trauma-Informed Practice



194

...and captured feedback from 194 students



Victorian Local Learning and Employment Networks

In late 2021, CEO Trent McCarthy was re-elected Chair of Victorian Local Learning and Employment Networks (VicLLENs) for a fourth year. Throughout 2021, Trent worked with LLEN Executive Officers and the Department of Education and Training to provide a range of targeted supports to students and schools impacted by COVID-19, such as virtual work placements, negotiation with TAFEs and RTOs to ensure continuation of VET offerings and partnership development with industry and community organisations. VicLLENs also launched its new website vicllens.org.au and developed the highly successful School to Work Summit, held on 31 March 2022.

Central Ranges LLEN Board

In 2021, the Central Ranges LLEN Board met five times (online and in person) and welcomed Faye D'Helin as a new Board Member, representing Industry. The Board engaged in strategic planning, financial oversight and project and program monitoring to ensure the sustainability of our important work and the achievement of our strategic direction:

WE WILL MAKE THE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



Thank you

We'd like to thank the hardworking team at Central Ranges LLEN for all their work in 2021:

- Trent McCarthy – Chief Executive Officer
- Lena Way – Director Engagement
- Cassie Cheffers – Engagement Officer
- Rod Begbie – Trainer and VET Support
- Janoel Liddy – Training and Wellbeing Support
- Linda Vathis – Events Manager (VicLLENs)
- Emma Linton – Communications Coordinator (VicLLENs)
- Helen Jeram – Project Officer
- Melissa McCarthy – Financial Officer (from November)
- Celina Grech – Financial Officer (until November)
- And our Project Ready facilitators and mentors, in particular Hope Evans, Kerry McGahy, Wendy Hopkins, Jane Williams, Kate Spear, Carolyn Burton and Stephanie Gates.

...and welcome new team members in 2022:

- Lexi Economou – Engagement Officer
- Silvia Tozer – Youth Facilitator (BALTS)

We'd also like to thank our Board for all their work since our last Annual General Meeting:

- Jenny Jackson – Chair
- Sue Marstaeller OAM – Deputy Chair
- John Walsh – Treasurer
- Jacqueline Carter – Secretary
- Rhonda Cole
- Bruce Skewes
- Janet Pearce
- Eric Lording
- Sebastian Antoine
- Faye D'Helin

Finally, thank you to all the members, partners and supporters of Central Ranges LLEN for the difference you're making every day for young people in our region.

Jenny Jackson
Chair

Trent McCarthy
CEO

Contact us

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