



The following is a brief outline of the focus for Highlands LLEN in 2018–2019 as we remain committed to creating learning opportunities for young people by facilitating genuine partnerships and complementary support systems.

## Education Engagement

### Contact | Asha Buckmaster

The role of Highlands LLEN is to broker sustainable partnerships that increase the rate of Secondary School aged young people in the Highlands Region 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 reasons why young people disengage from learning are complex and vary across communities. The resources for implementing effective initiatives may exist within communities but may require cross-sectoral and cross-organisational collaboration to be effective. Therefore, to find ways to increase levels of engagement in the Highlands Region, local brokers are required who can support education providers by contributing knowledge of:

- | cross-sectoral practice and partnerships
- | social and economic context
- | existing service and education offerings/gaps and
- | opportunities to work with business and community groups to build collective effort.

Highlands LLEN will play a vital role in establishing partnerships and pathways that connect young people to the initiatives that meet their needs and improve their prospects of engaging in education, training and employment.

## VET Cluster

### Contact | Emily Innes

The Vocational Education and Training (VET) Cluster is a partnership between the Highlands LLEN and 22 Secondary Education providers within Ballarat and surrounding areas. Our programs offer students an opportunity to undertake National or State vocational certificates which are recognised as part of a student's Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) as endorsed by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

There are 20 VET program options available in 2018 that students can pursue while studying Year 10, 11 and 12, supporting their pathway to further education, training and/or employment.

## Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)

### Contact | Lyndel Nash

The Department of Education and Training provides funding to the Highlands LLEN to support efforts to increase access to appropriate Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements for students undertaking vocational education and training (VET) programs as part of their senior certificates. To achieve this, the Highlands LLEN will engage with industry and employers to source SWL Opportunities that will be advertised on the Statewide Portal. We will promote, train and support employers and school staff to understand and use The Portal. The opportunities listed on The Portal will be current and meaningful to ensure easy access by students.

Genuine workplace experiences are a key factor in supporting young people to make informed decisions about career pathways. The Highlands LLEN SWL Program makes it possible for young people studying VET to undertake different jobs, meet local employers and gain beneficial opportunities to practice their knowledge and skills through SWL and/or School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs).



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Our main activities will be supporting disengaging or disengaged young people to continue their education and assisting young people in gaining Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements or School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBATs).

The Highlands LLEN will play a significant role in achieving the aims identified in the Victorian Government's Education State initiative across the Ballarat, Hepburn, Moorabool, Pyrenees, and Golden Plains local government areas.

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