

NORTH-WESTERN VICTORIA REGION (NWVR) Koorie Academy of Excellence 2025 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!



16 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Koorie Academy of Excellence is excited to inform you that 2025 applications are now open for eligible students to join the North-Western Victoria Region (NWVR) Koorie Academy of Excellence (KAE).

The KAE is an out of school hours program that supports young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to be culturally strong, to be leaders in their community, to aspire towards completing Year 12 and pursue a study or career pathway of their choice. It is a joint initiative between the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) and the Victorian Department of Education (DE), and the NWVR KAE operates within Northern Metropolitan Melbourne.

To be eligible to apply students must be:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- currently in Year 6
- aspirational, determined, engaged and display leadership qualities
- enrolling in Year 7 at a Victorian Government NWVR metropolitan Melbourne secondary school in 2025 (i.e., schools in the Hume, Merri-bek, Yarra, Darebin, Banyule, Nillumbik, and Whittlesea Local Government Areas).

Please also find further information about the KAE, including a fact sheet for families, answering many questions you may have, and a snapshot of what a yearly KAE program may involve, along with the 2025 KAE application form.

Applications close Friday, 15 November 2024

We invite you to apply before the above closing date as positions are limited, and late applications will be accepted at the discretion of the KAE. We also invite you to pass this information onto your networks within the community.

All applicants will be required to provide a copy of a recent school report and a character reference from a community member or school staff member with their application form, before attending an interview with a parent/carer present. Interviews are scheduled to take place in December and/or January.

Please return your completed application to the North-Western Victoria Region, Koorie Academy of Excellence at KAE.NWVR@education.vic.gov.au

If this is not possible and you need to make alternative arrangements or if you have any questions regarding the KAE and the application process, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Koorie Academy of Excellence Liaison Officers (KAELOs) at...

Rachael | E: rachael.cannonsiemsen@education.vic.gov.au | M: 0475 590 792
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Kind regards,
The NWVR Koorie Academy of Excellence Team 😊

NORTH-WESTERN VICTORIA REGION - MELBOURNE METRO

KOORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE

FACT SHEET: FOR FAMILIES



WHAT IS THE KOORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE?

The Koorie Academy of Excellence (KAE) is an out of school hours program that supports young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to be culturally strong, to be leaders in their community, and aspiring young people who complete Year 12, and pursue a study or career pathway of their choice.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

The KAE program aligns to four pillars:

1. Connection to culture
2. Leadership
3. Academic strength and school engagement
4. Career passion and knowledge

Students are invited to engage in a broad range of activities, experiences and opportunities that may include:

- 1-on-1 time with a KAELO to identify interests and goals
- Camps
- Excursions and activity days
- Work experience/placements
- Career related short courses and workshops
- Mentorship
- University/TAFE connection
- Corporate partner support & sponsorship
- Cultural experiences
- Sporting/Arts/Community events

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ACADEMY PROGRAM?

The KAE motto is "Nurturing the next generation of Koorie Leaders" and our goal is for our students to dream big!

From regular conversations and exposure to the leadership, cultural, academic, and social activities on offer, that are all designed to get students thinking about what they enjoy, are good at, what interests them and what challenges them, it is hoped that KAE members will realise their unlimited potential and ability to achieve, be excited about their future, be confident in their choices, and be strong and proud in their identity.

HOW LONG IS THE ACADEMY FOR?

Students are members of the KAE for the duration of their secondary education. Typically, students apply to join the KAE at the end of Grade 6, joining the KAE cohort at the beginning of Year 7 and remaining as members in the KAE until they complete Year 12 or equivalent.

KAE members are also offered support following their completion of school, as a KAE Alumni member.

WHERE IS THE ACADEMY LOCATED?

The KAE is a 'virtual' academy, meaning there is no permanent dedicated classroom, building or space. Programs offered by the KAE are held at various locations and venues around Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The NWVR KAE operates within northern metropolitan Melbourne. We offer membership to students who are enrolled at secondary schools in the Hume, Merri-bek, Yarra, Darebin, Banyule, Nillumbik, and Whittlesea Local Government Areas.

The KAE was recently expanded across the state and now also operates independent programs in the Ovens Murray, Outer Gippsland, and Wimmera Southwest areas of Victoria.

WHEN WILL ACADEMY PROGRAMS TAKE PLACE?

All KAE programs take place outside of school hours, either before or after school, on weekends or over school holiday breaks, providing additional opportunities that may not be available in the school setting.

We do not believe in removing KAE students from regular school classes to participate in KAE programs, however the occasional KAELO school visit may be scheduled during school hours, preferable over recess or lunch.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL THE ACADEMY TAKE UP EACH YEAR?

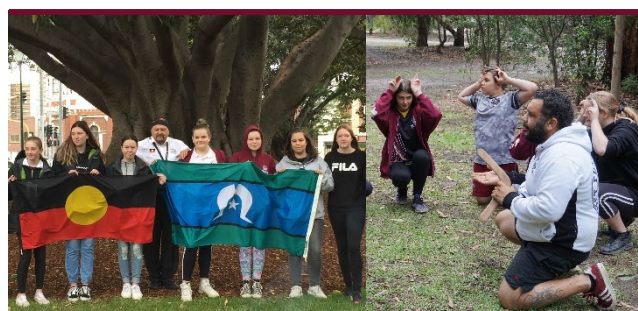
The KAE wants to build strong, sustained and trusting relationships with each member. This requires its members to be actively involved and committed to attending most KAE activities.

The NWVR KAE program currently schedules 2-3 activities for members to engage with each term.

HOW MUCH WILL THE ACADEMY COST?

There is no cost to the KAE member or family to participate in the Koorie Academy of Excellence.

The KAE is funded by Department of Education (DE) and has the potential to be supported through corporate sponsorship and philanthropic donations.





WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

The application process typically begins in September/October each year and is finalised by the time students settle into Term 1 in February the following year. The process includes:

1. Applications Open: September/October
 - KAE application packs are distributed throughout school and community networks
2. Submissions Due: November
 - Year 6 students who meet the eligibility criteria are invited to submit an application form to the KAE, along with a recent school report and a character reference from a community member or school staff
3. Applicant Interviews: December/January
 - Applicants are invited to attend an interview with a parent/carer present to discuss their interests, aspirations, school involvement, cultural engagement, and knowledge of the KAE program
4. Membership Offers: January/February
 - Successful applicants are notified of their membership acceptance and invited to the annual KAE Welcome Ceremony
 - Unsuccessful applicants are notified and put on a waiting list
5. Welcome Ceremony: February
 - All successful applicants will be inducted into the KAE program, joining the KAE family, receiving a membership certificate and KAE uniform

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS TO APPLY?

To be eligible to apply for the North-Western Victoria Region, Melbourne Metro Koorie Academy of Excellence students must be:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- currently in Year 6
- aspirational, determined, engaged and display leadership qualities
- enrolling in Year 7 at a Victorian State Government NWVR northern metropolitan secondary school

WHAT ARE THE SELECTION CRITERIA?

The KAE's selection of successful applicants is based on students firstly meeting the above eligibility criteria, along with their school engagement, attitude, general interests and passions, their aspirations, and community/cultural involvement. These criteria will be considered from their application form, school report, character reference and interview.

Each year the KAE has 14 Year 7 positions available, preferably even numbers of males and females.

WHO MANAGES THE ACADEMY?

The KAE is a partnership initiative between the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) and the Victorian Department of Education (DE), that is administered by a State-wide KAE Reference Group. Each regional Koorie Academy of Excellence is then guided by a Local KAE Consultative Group.

A Koorie Academy of Excellence Liaison Officer (KAELO) is the main point of contact for the KAE. They are responsible for the design, development, and implementation of KAE programs within their region, and has the role of building and sustaining relationships with KAE members, their families, schools, and stakeholders.

HOW WILL SCHOOLS AND THE ACADEMY WORK TOGETHER?

The KAELO will meet with school staff to ensure that the needs and aspirations of each KAE student at your school are clearly identified and understood. Our collective goal is to work towards the best outcome for the student.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF KAE STUDENTS?

There is an expectation that KAE members demonstrate or seek the following qualities:

- Have respect for self and others
- Are determined, curious young people who have a desire for personal growth and development
- Demonstrate leadership behaviours
- Enjoys challenges and actively seeks out opportunities
- Actively engage and attend all KAE events
- Are engaged in their own education and sets high expectations for themselves
- Are aspirational with a desire to successfully complete Year 12 and pursue further education and career pathways

ARE THERE MINIMUM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS?

It is important that KAE members are fully committed and want to be involved. Regular non-attendance may result in forfeiting your place in the program.

We understand that members have other commitments and families are busy, however participation is important. Our expectation is that an inability to attend is communicated in a timely manner.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PARENTS/CARERS?

Parent/Carer involvement is encouraged. It is very important that parents and carers fully support their child's decision to participate in the KAE. This usually means providing transportation to and from KAE activities and assisting us to encourage your child to try many of the new experiences that the KAE will offer.

Parents/Carers will be advised of any opportunities to be directly involved in the program or to volunteer for KAE events and activities.

We look forward to receiving your application. Please get in touch with the KAE if you have further questions
KAE.NWVR@education.vic.gov.au

Other contact information is listed in the footer below.



Contacts
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NORTH-WESTERN VICTORIA REGION - MELBOURNE METRO KORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE ANNUAL PROGRAM SNAPSHOT



Koorie
ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE

DISCOVER EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WITH THE KORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE, INCLUDING AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT THE ACTIVITY IS, WHO IS ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AND WHEN IT IS NORMALLY HELD.



WELCOME & GRADUATION CEREMONY

WHO: New Yr.7 members, Graduating Yr.12 members & the Entire KAE community

WHEN: Term 1 (typically in February)

WHAT: This is the event that kicks off the start of the KAE year. We bring the entire KAE community together, including students, families, friends, school staff, community members and stakeholders, to welcome and induct our new Year 7 group, congratulate, and farewell our graduating Year 12 group, whilst celebrating the beginning of another KAE program, and acknowledging the achievements and commitment of our members.

It is always an uplifting occasion, coming together and seeing our latest KAE members become a part of the KAE family, and witnessing our existing members begin a new journey. Inductees all receive membership certificates and official KAE uniforms. Graduates are presented with their graduate certificates and stoles, along with their completed membership totem artefact, and the annual Toorong Marnong Award is awarded to one lucky student.

YEAR 7 & 8 ACTIVITY DAY

WHO: Year 7 & 8 members only
(Senior & middle year members welcomed as mentors)

WHEN: Term 1 (typically in early March)

WHAT: Our first small mob activity of the year that brings our junior members together to bond with each other and get to know their KAELOs over a fun activity, with a light cultural focus, allowing students to begin to build upon and/or further develop their connection to culture.



SCHOOL VISITS

WHO: All members (Years 7-12)

WHEN: All year round (typically over recess or lunch)

WHAT: KAELOs will visit KAE members at school during school hours to check-in with them, offer support and discuss their interests and progress. We aim to visit each KAE member, however priority is given to members who are identified for additional support, referred by either the school, parent/carer or the student themselves. School visits also provide an opportunity for the KAELOs to build upon their relationships with schools, so that we can collectively achieve the best outcome for the student.



KAE CAMP

WHO: All members (Years 7-12)

WHEN: Term 1 School Holiday Break (late March/early April)

WHAT: Undoubtedly our most anticipated activity for the year. Each year the KAE hosts a 3-4-day camp in the first term school holidays for all KAE members to come together, let their hair down and bond as a group. The camps strongly focus on cultural immersion and stepping outside of your comfort zones, allowing students to build upon their leadership skills and cultural connection. In the past we have attended Camp Jungai, The Summit Camp, Out Beyond and Anglesea YMCA.

YEAR 9-12 ACTIVITY DAY

WHO: Year 9 - 12 members only
WHEN: Term 2 (typically in June/July)

WHAT: Another small mob activity designed to provide our middle school members with an opportunity to develop their aspirations and broaden their knowledge around career and pathway planning. We normally weave in a cultural focus into this activity as well, to allow students to further develop their cultural connection. At this stage we begin encouraging our members to think about what they enjoy and what they need to do to pursue this in the future.

SCHOOL FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP

WHO: Year 9 members only
(5 positions only – 2 male & 3 female)
WHEN: Allocated a Term each year (typically in Term 4)
WHAT: Each year we offer positions for Year 9 KAE members to attend an alternate school setting for 8-9 weeks of a school term at the Gnurad-Gundidj campus of the School for Student Leadership. They live and learn on campus, studying a curriculum of personal development, life skills, teamwork, leadership, environmental studies, individual learning and reflection and community citizenship. Generally, this is held in Term 4.



KAE YARN-UPS & WORKSHOPS

WHO: All members (Years 7-12) (Occasionally year level specific mobs)
WHEN: Weekends or evenings (typically one offered per term)
WHAT: These can be a variety of activities or events offered that focus on discussion and sharing ideas whilst aligning to the four KAE pillars of Connection to Culture, Leadership, Academic Strength and School Engagement, and Career Passion and Knowledge. Examples of KAE Yarn-Up activities can include motivational guest speakers, industry insights, short courses, training, and work experience, etc.

COMMUNITY & CULTURE DAYS

WHO: All members (Years 7-12)
(Occasionally year level specific mobs)
WHEN: Weekends, evenings, or School Holidays
(Typically, one offered per term)
WHAT: These can be a variety of activities or events offered that focus on community engagement and culture. Past KAE Yarn-Up activities have included the Long Walk and Dreamtime at the 'G', cultural heritage trail, Bush Food cooking and art exhibitions. Other activities may include men's and women's business workshops, NAIDOC Week participation, dance/craft workshops, etc.



UNIVERSITY & TAFE OPEN DAYS/KOORIE BIG DAY OUT

WHO: Year 10, 11 & 12 members (Parents welcome)
WHEN: Term 3 (typically in August/September)
WHAT: Support for students to attend University and TAFE open days held throughout the Melbourne area. These open days are vital to our student's study/career journeys, allowing them to get an insight into University/TAFE life, connect with the Koorie units on site and gain information about or identify pathways options in line with their interests or career aspirations. We can also connect students with the Indigenous units at each campus.





LEADERSHIP IN ACTION LUNCH/DINNER

WHO: Year 11 & 12 members only
(KAE Alumni welcomed as mentors)
WHEN: Term 4 (typically in October)
WHAT: Towards the end of each year, we bring our senior members together over a casual meal to yarn about their goals, their aspirations and pathway options with a special guest or two and their KAELOs. This meal usually occurs before exams begin to provide some downtime and motivation before a busy end of year schedule.

FAMILY YARNING CIRCLE & END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

WHO: All members (Year 7-12) and Parents/Carers
WHEN: Early December
WHAT: An opportunity for parents/carers and members to come together and celebrate the past year and to provide feedback to the KAE. It allows the KAE community to not only shape the KAE program, but also discuss their concerns and raise any questions with the KAELOs in a casual and open forum.

PLEASE CONTACT THE KAE OR YOUR KAELOs DIRECTLY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES/EVENTS LISTED.
Please note, this annual program snapshot is only a guide and the KAE program may vary or change from what is outlined.
Let us know if there is anything that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the KAE program.

 The Melbourne Metro, Koorie Academy of Excellence respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nations as the traditional custodians of the land in which it operates. We pay our respects to their elders past and present. 

NORTH-WESTERN VICTORIA REGION (NWVR) KOORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE 2025 APPLICATION FORM



Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the North-Western Victoria Region (NWVR), Koorie Academy of Excellence (KAE). The KAE is seeking students who are aspirational, determined, engaged and display leadership qualities.

To be eligible to apply you must be:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- currently in Year 6
- aspirational, determined, engaged and display leadership qualities
- enrolling in Year 7 at a Victorian Government NWVR Metro Melbourne secondary school in 2025 (this includes schools in the Hume, Merri-bek, Yarra, Darebin, Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea Local Government Areas)

Please complete the below to register your interest in joining. After we receive your application, you will be contacted to arrange an interview time with a parent/carer present.

Please note:

- All information provided in this form is confidential
- A parent/carer must support all applications
- Please provide a recent school report and a character reference from a community member or school staff member with this application.
- **Applications close Friday 15 November 2024**
- Semester 2 reports to be provided once issued in December.

STUDENT DETAILS

Given Name: Middle Name:

Surname:

Date of Birth:

Home address:.....

Suburb: State: Post Code:

Student mobile number:

Student email address:.....

Gender: Male Female Rather not say

Preferred Pronoun: He/Him She/Her They/Them

Do you identify as: Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Both

Do you know the name of your Mob? Yes No

If known, name your Mob:.....

PARENT/CARER DETAILS

Given Name: Surname:

Relationship to student:

Home address (if different to student):

Suburb: State: Post Code:

Email address:

Mobile:Telephone (other):

STUDENT SCHOOL DETAILS

Current Year Level:

Name of your current Primary School:

Name of the Victorian Government NWVR Metro secondary school you will be enrolled at in 2025:

.....

STUDENT EDUCATION

Please rate yourself against the following:

	Room for Improvement			↔	Very Good
Behaviour.....	1☐	2☐	3☐		4☐ 5☐
Commitment / attitude to learning	1☐	2☐	3☐		4☐ 5☐
Homework completion	1☐	2☐	3☐		4☐ 5☐
Punctuality	1☐	2☐	3☐		4☐ 5☐
Attendance	1☐	2☐	3☐		4☐ 5☐

What are your favourite subjects at school?

.....
.....

What are your least favourite subjects at school?

.....
.....

List any leadership roles you have had at school:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School captain | <input type="checkbox"/> House captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddy support to younger student | <input type="checkbox"/> Student representative council (SRC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer support mentor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain): | |

.....
.....
.....

What do you enjoy most about school?

.....
.....

What do you enjoy least about school?

.....
.....

ABOUT ME

What are three words that best describe you?

1: 2: 3:

What are three things that are most important to you?

1: 2: 3:

Community / Recreation

Please list any extracurricular activities you participate in:

.....
.....

What do you like to do in your spare time?

.....
.....

Are you a member of any Clubs? Yes No

If yes, please list the name of these Clubs:

.....
.....

Have you ever volunteered at any event or function? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

.....
.....
.....

Leadership

List any leadership roles that you may have held outside of school:

Captain sporting team Leadership role at community event

Family support Club representative

Other, please explain:

.....
.....
.....

In your own words, what does it mean to be a leader?

.....
.....
.....

CAREER INTERESTS

What would you like to do/be when you finish secondary school?

.....
.....

Have you considered going to university or other further study when you finish your secondary education?

Yes No

KAE INVOLVEMENT

Briefly explain why you would like to be a member of the Koorie Academy of Excellence?

.....
.....
.....
.....

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2024

Please sign and date the application form

Student Signature: Date:

Student Name:

Parent/Carer Signature: Date:

Parent/Carer Name:

Return your completed application form to the North-Western Victoria Region, Koorie Academy of Excellence at KAE.NWVR@education.vic.gov.au.

If this is not possible and you would like to make alternative arrangements, or if you would like more information about the KAE and the application process, please contact your Koorie Academy of Excellence Liaison Officers (KAELOs) directly at...

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Thank you!
from the Koorie Academy of Excellence Team ☺



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