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28 November, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Youth-run charity's summer tutoring program fighting educational disadvantage in Victoria

[Melbourne, Victoria – 28 November, 2024] As next year's VCE cohort start preparing for their studies, VCE Summer Tutoring Inc. is excited to announce applications are still open for students keen to participate in its January 2025 head-start tutoring program.

Founded in 2023, VCE Summer Tutoring is a youth-run education charity passionate about fighting educational disadvantage in Victoria through annual delivery of its January summer school program.

This year, plans are underway to deliver the program in Clayton at Monash University's state-of-the-art Learning and Teaching Building, described by Monash University as a "visually inspiring, world-class learning environment."

The program is receiving support from the Monash Faculty of Education, as well as from a range of other Melbourne-based organisations, including the Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation and the University of Melbourne's Peter McPhee Community Impact Grant initiative.

The summer program combines academic classes in a wide range of VCE subjects, wellbeing support, social activities, and tertiary information seminars to prepare students for the year ahead, all delivered by an army of university student volunteers from across Melbourne.

"Our students appreciate the program's holistic nature and breadth of offerings that in turn encourages them to strive towards a robust study-life balance through their schooling. There's also a real sense of community that builds over the two weeks and beyond because of the extracurricular elements, which sets us apart from programs with a purely academic focus," says VCE Summer Tutoring President Lucas Spaleta.

"Many of our students often don't have people around them they can ask about VCE, study beyond high school, and careers. This program aims to give them the platform and network to do so, while building the confidence and skills to maximise their potential and study outcomes."

2024 NAPLAN results revealed that students from financially underprivileged backgrounds scored 24.3% lower in grammar and punctuation than their financially privileged counterparts.

In its 2024 program, 77% of VCE Summer Tutoring students reported at least one disadvantage factor affecting their education. 24.6% of students reported experiencing financial disadvantage, while 31.1% came from a non-English speaking background and 19.7% lived in a regional area.

Through its community-funded bursary system, VCE Summer Tutoring strives to ensure that financial disadvantage is never a barrier to participation in the program. Financial assistance is available to any families that need support.

"Resources like education programs, subject-specific tutoring, academic materials, and mentorship are often unaffordable and inaccessible for families from our target backgrounds, especially for less common subjects or pathways.

We aim to address this through setting program fees in line with our actual costs, and allocating our funding to cover the expenses students incur to participate in education programs like ours."

With enrolment for the 6-17 January, 2025 program now open, students and families are encouraged to apply before 13 December, 2024 to secure their spot.

Applications are also open for those interested in volunteering at the program as tutors and in other leadership roles that include event delivery, curriculum development, welfare and operational support, academic optimisation, and content production.

"Our volunteers are incredibly devoted to the program's cause and supporting our students. They value the opportunity to give back to the community, share enthusiasm for their study areas, and watch our students grow and succeed through the program.

It's not uncommon to see our volunteers with 4-5 years of prior involvement in volunteer education programs, and coming back to our program year after year – we really can't keep them away!"

Further information around applying as a volunteer or enrolling as a student is available at our website <https://vcesummertutoring.au/>.

OUR CONTACT

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VCE Summer Tutoring