

NORTH-WESTERN VICTORIA REGION (NWVR) KOORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE FACT SHEET



WHAT IS THE KOORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE?

The Koorie Academy of Excellence (KAE) is an out of school hours program supporting young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to develop a connection to culture, leadership skills and their academic capabilities.

WHAT IS THE KOORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE ABOUT?

For whatever reason, too many capable Indigenous young people do not capitalise on their potential, so the KAE is about nurturing the next generation of Koorie leaders.

The KAE provides support to Indigenous secondary school students to build their aspirations to remain engaged and excel in their education, complete Year 12 and pursue a study / career pathway of their choice. It is about encouraging its members to be excited about their future, be confident in their choices and be culturally strong. We want our students to dream big!

HOW WILL THE KAE DO THAT?

KAE members are exposed to a broad range of leadership, cultural, academic and social activities that are designed to get them thinking about what they are good at, what they enjoy and what they aspire to. In addition to group and small mob activities, support will be provided by a Koorie Academy Liaison Officer (KALO), who will meet each Academy member to identify individual interests.

Through activities and regular conversations, it is hoped that Academy members will realise their potential and their unlimited ability to achieve.

WHO MANAGES THE ACADEMY?

The KAE is a partnership initiative between the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) and the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET).

The KAE is funded by DET and administered by a State-wide KAE Reference Group, with representation from VAEAI, DET, academia, community and Local KAE Consultative Groups. The Local KAE Consultative Groups then guide each regional Koorie Academy of Excellence, with representation from DET, Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LAECG), corporate partnerships, universities, schools, community, KAE alumni and parents.

WHERE IS THE KAE LOCATED?

The NWVR Koorie Academy of Excellence operates throughout the northern metropolitan suburbs of Melbourne, including those Hume, Moreland, Yarra, Darebin, Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea. The KAE is a 'virtual' academy, meaning there is no permanent dedicated classroom, building or space. Camps, events and social gatherings run by the NWVR KAE will be held at various venues around Melbourne and country Victoria.

As part of the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026, the KAE will be expanded to three other locations across the state, including the Ovens-Murray area in north-east Victoria, the Gippsland area in south-east Victoria and the Wimmera area in south-west Victoria.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

The KAE program aligns with four pillars:

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

This is provided through a range of potential activities including:

- One-on-one time with a KALO
- Camps
- Excursions & Activity Days
- Work experience / placements
- Career related short courses & workshops
- Mentoring
- Support & opportunities from University / TAFE & corporate partners
- Cultural experiences
- Sporting / Arts / Community events

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

The KAE complements the work of school and all activities are conducted out of school time, providing additional opportunities that may not be provided in the school setting.



2018 KAE COMMUNITY GATHERING & WELCOMING CEREMONY



2018 KAE CAMP

HOW WILL SCHOOLS AND THE KAE WORK TOGETHER?

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

WHEN WILL THE ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE?

Activities take place outside of school hours, including holidays, weekends and after or before school. KALO school visits may be undertaken during school hours.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

There is no cost to the KAE member or the family. The KAE is funded by DET and has potential to be supported through corporate sponsorship and philanthropic donations.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE KOORIE ACADEMY LIAISON OFFICER?

The KALO is the main point of contact for KAE members and their families. The KALO works one on one with KAE members to identify their needs and guide them along their aspirational journey. The KALO also designs and delivers the KAE program in line with the KAE pillars.

HOW LONG IS THE KAE FOR?

KAE members remain involved in the KAE for the duration of their secondary education. KAE members are also offered support following completing school, as a KAE Alumni member.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE UP PER YEAR?

The KAE wants to build strong, sustained and trusting relationships with each Academy member. This requires members to be actively involved and make a commitment to attend most KAE activities, including an essential camp held in the first term school holiday break.

The NWVR KAE program currently schedules 2-3 activities per term, with some occurring during school holidays for students engage.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD DOES NOT MEET ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS?

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

We understand that members have other commitments, however participation is important and the KALO is there to talk through any issues and is understanding of unforeseen circumstances. Our expectation is that inability to attend is communicated in a timely manner.

WHAT ARE PARENTS / CARERS EXPECTED TO DO?

Parent and carer involvement is encouraged. It is very important that parents and carers fully support their child's decision to engage 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.

We welcome you to contact the KALO if you have any questions, issues or concerns.

Parents and carers will be advised of opportunities to volunteer at KAE event and activities.

WHAT IS THE ENTRY CRITERIA FOR THE KAE?

Acceptance is based on your application along with an interview, which will take into account the student's attendance, academic progress and achievement, as well as effort and attitude at school. A school report and character reference will be required from a community member or school teacher / principal. Student interests, both inside and outside of school is also considered.

Successful applicants must attend a government secondary school in the Metropolitan NWVR.

For further information, please contact:

Koorie Academy of Excellence
North-Western Victoria Region (Coburg)
1300 338 691

Or contact the KALOs directly via the details found in the footer below.



KAE 2018 YR.7&8 ACTIVITY DAY