

# 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:

- One-on-one 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, Moreland, 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 DET 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 informal 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
  - 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, KAE uniform and KAE journey totem.

### WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS TO APPLY?

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

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- currently in Year 6
- enrolling in Year 7 at a Victorian State Government NWVR (HUMO/NEMA) 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 and Training (DET), 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 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
- 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 a 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. CONTACT INFORMATION IS LISTED IN THE FOOTER BELOW.**



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