

NORTH-WESTERN VICTORIA REGION - MELBOURNE METRO KORIE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE FACT SHEET: FOR SCHOOLS



WHAT IS THE KORIE 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 the Hume Moreland (HUMA) and North Eastern Melbourne (NEMA) Areas of northern metropolitan Melbourne. We offer membership to students who are enrolled at Victorian State Government secondary schools in these areas.

As part of the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026, the KAE was expanded across the state and now also operates independent programs in the North-Eastern Region (Ovens Murray), South-Eastern Region (Outer Gippsland) and South-Western Region (Wimmera Southwest) of Victoria.

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

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.



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 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
- enrolling in Year 7 at a Victorian State Government NWVR (HUMA/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.



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

HOW CAN SCHOOLS SUPPORT THE KAE?

It is hoped that schools will identify students who are entering Year 7 that meet the eligibility criteria and expectations of the KAE, discuss the program with them and their family, and then encourage them to apply.

We also hope that each school will nominate a staff member who is responsible for liaising with the KAELO. This may include discussing student supports, assisting to arrange KAELO school visits, and sharing upcoming KAE program information with students and families.

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.

WILL ACADEMY PROGRAMS INTERFERE WITH SCHOOL?

All KAE programs take place outside of school hours, either before or after school, on weekends or over school holiday breaks. 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, preferably over recess or lunch.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE KAE IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS. CONTACT INFORMATION IS LISTED IN THE FOOTER BELOW.