

2021 Annual Report





Djerriwarrh Community College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and waters on which we live, work and travel. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging

At Djerriwarrh Community College, we are not all the same, and that is our greatest strength. We value our diversity in who we are and our life experiences. We support all members of our community and celebrate our differences.

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Principal's Report and Welcome

The inaugural year of Djerriwarrh Community College has been an eventful one, full of triumphs & numerous challenges. As a school, we have achieved amazing connections with our community through collaboration, we ensured our students and their families remained supported during times of uncertainty.



Welcome to the first annual report of Djerriwarrh Community College for the year 2021. I am thrilled to take up the position of the Principal at Djerriwarrh Community College and oversee the development of an independent specialist school tailored to meet the needs of vulnerable and disengaged young people in Melton. Our vision and mission are to provide a learning environment where students can reach their personal, social and educational potential.

Our College was established to provide alternative and flexible option for students who have disengaged from education. We provide individualised support and work with community groups to provide wrap around services. Following the Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) we provide strategies for teaching and learning that increase engagement and successfully improve students' self-regulation, relationships, wellbeing, growth and academic achievement. Using trauma informed practice techniques, we work to restore relationships and lead students to healthier interpersonal relationships and learning.

Acknowledgement and thanks must be given to the work of staff who facilitated the smooth transition from a successful community program to an independent school. Led by Trish Heffernan the CEO of Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services, staff and students were able to make a smooth transition into a vibrant community college. Djerriwarrh Community & Education services has always supported the Melton community and with the establishment the College have ensured increased supports and learning opportunities for its young people.

Our staff work with students to improve learning outcomes. Our learning environment is one of inclusion, respect and caring. Our staff are adaptable and we follow through with our commitments to our students and the school community. I am very proud to be the Principal of Djerriwarrh Community College and look forward to working with the community to empower our young people to fulfil their unique potential.

Amy Farrell
Principal

Chair's Report

On behalf of the Djerriwarrh Community College Council, the principal, staff and community, I am delighted to present the College's Annual Report for the year ending 2021. From the time of our successful registration in 2020 as an independent community college we have achieved tremendous amount, despite the added challenges of COVID.



I firstly would like to acknowledge the excellent work of our foundation principal Amy Farrell and offer our sincerest gratitude to our partner organisation Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services for their vision and leadership in the VRQA registration process and the successful establishment of the school. The planning and development that goes into establishing a new school is immense. Strong governance, finance and administrative processes have been put into place, the strategic plan and a multitude of policies and procedures have been written and implemented. This work has laid a strong foundation for the College's continued growth and development.

I would like congratulate our principal and staff on their fine work putting in place a relevant curriculum that meets the learning needs of our students. I also acknowledge their work in developing partnerships with organisations and individuals that provide essential student support services. Key partnerships developed this year include SPELD Victoria, Reconnect, Reclink Australia and the Eat Up program.

In partnership with Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services were able to purchase an adjacent property and have begun the process of developing a Building Master Plan. This plan will prepare the College for further development and position it well to access future funding opportunities.

A key highlight for me this year was to see the graduation of the College's first students and the pride they showed in their achievement. Our first graduation encapsulated the primary purpose of the College, to support young people and assist them to successfully transition into further education, training and employment. I congratulate our 2021 graduates and wish them well in the next stage of their lives. They will always have a unique place in the history of Djerriwarrh Community College as its foundation alumni.

I would also like to congratulate students who left before graduation to take up places in further education, training and employment.

We have completed a highly successful first year of operation. The College is well on the way to being a viable and sustainable school. This is evident in how we are delivering on our key priorities. The provision of a safe and inclusive learning environment, the commitment to teaching excellence and the development of strong community partnership are all working together to give our students the best chance to successfully realise their goals.

Finally, my sincerest thanks to my fellow college councillors for their advice and the contributions they have made to the College. Our Council members have brought to the school a great depth of knowledge and experience in organisational leadership and governance, education and training, community, youth services and business development.

Peter Blunden
Chair

School Council Composition



Peter Blunden
Chair

Peter has many years' leadership experience in education and local government, as principal of Kurunjang Secondary College, Executive Officer to the City of Melton's Community Learning Board and as an Educational Consultant. Peter also has extensive experience in organisational governance holding directorships and executive positions on a number community sector boards and committees of management, including 17 years as a director and secretary of the Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Board.



Bob Turner
Deputy Chair

Bob is an elected Councillor for the City of Melton who is passionate about the health and wellbeing of young people.

He strongly advocates for enhanced program delivery, more primary and secondary schools, and local TAFE and university. He also supports a local hospital to be built in the City of Melton and improved Western Freeway and Melton Highways



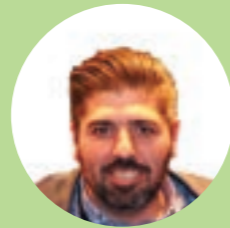
Tegan Tregea
Treasurer

Tegan has worked in the individual and family services industry for nearly 20 years including working for MacKillop Family Services, Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services and Hope Street Youth and Family Services. Tegan has a strong professional knowledge of Out of Home Care service, Education & Employment and Homelessness and experience working with marginalised young people.



Richard Kelly
School Council Member

Richard is the representative of the Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Board and a teacher at Holmesglen Institute. He is skilled in regulatory compliance, corporate governance, and finance and risk management and holds multi-disciplinary degrees in law, education and engineering.



Mark Corrie
School Council Member

Mark is Chief Executive Officer of Western BACE. With an international background in finance, trade and supply chain and IPOs in Europe, North America and Asia, on returning to Australia Mark led the creation of the '\$20 million Building in a Paddock' now known as Western BACE. As the CEO of Western BACE, Mark and his team are on a mission to support the community of Melbourne's West to have the same opportunities as any other community in Australia. Western BACE has already firmly established itself within the start-up and entrepreneurship community in Melbourne. Mark is particularly passionate about ensuring that children and youth have the same opportunities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, racial and ethnic background.



Lee Dewhirst
School Council Member

Lee is the parent representative on the Djerriwarrh Community College Board and has two grandchildren at the school. Lee has been an active member of the Melton community.



The Djerriwarrh Community College School Council is a subcommittee of the Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Board and would like to thank the Board for their ongoing support.

- Doris Cunningham Chair
- Don Nardella Deputy Chair/Secretary
- Chrisine Pilbeam Treasurer
- Ian Pearce Director
- Richard Kelly Director
- Claire Barret Director
- Stuart Deagan Director

Financial Statements



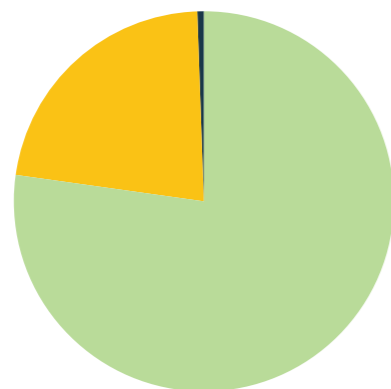
Accountable

We take responsibility for our decisions and follow through on our commitments

Expenditure from Operating Activities	\$
Staff salaries and On costs	807,814
Curriculum	48,487
Student Safety and Welfare	8,676
Facilities and Resources	173,424
Governance and Compliance	10,962
Revenue	
Federal Government Grants	1,426,442
State Government Grants	406,727
Other Funding	9,220
Total Operating profit / Surplus	793,026

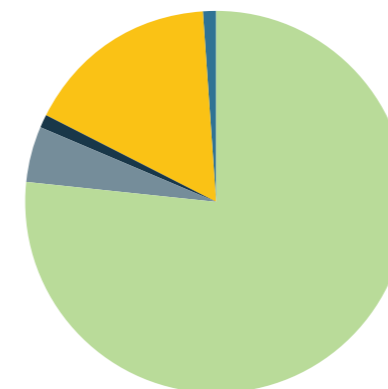
Income Breakdown	%
Federal Government Grants	77.4
Statal Government Grants	22.1
Other Funding	0.5
Expenses Breakdown	
Salaries and On Costs	77.0
Curriculum	4.5
Student Safety and Welfare	1.0
Facilities and Resources	16.5
Governance and Compliance	1.0

Revenue



- 77.4% Federal Grants
- 22.1% State Grants
- 0.5% Other

Expenses



- 77.0% Salaries & On Costs
- 16.5% Facilities & Resources
- 4.6% Curriculum
- 1.0% Student Safety & Welfare
- 1.0% Governance & Compliance



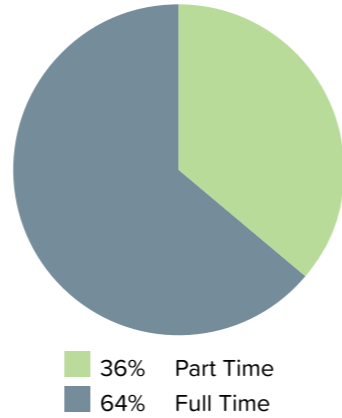
Djerriwarrh Community College Staff



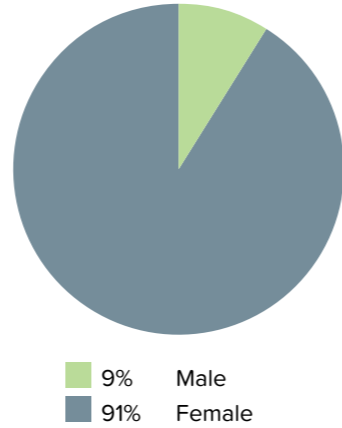
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Amy Farrell | Principal |
| Sibylle Kaczorek | Assistant Principal |
| Sween Sharma | Administration Officer |
| Paula Reynolds | Education Support Coordinator |
| Rachael Robertson | Education Support Worker |
| Amy Kick | Education Support Worker |
| Amy Abdullah | Youth Worker |
| Tanya Osborne | Teacher |
| Marianne Santos | Teacher |
| Billy McRae | Teacher |
| Amandeep Kaur | Teacher |

During 2021 our staff have focused on collaboration and providing flexible learning to our students. Our teachers have delivered engaging project based work while supporting students through the pandemic. Our whole team has been dedicated to providing wrap around support, assisting students to develop life skills and preparing them for the unprecedented times ahead.

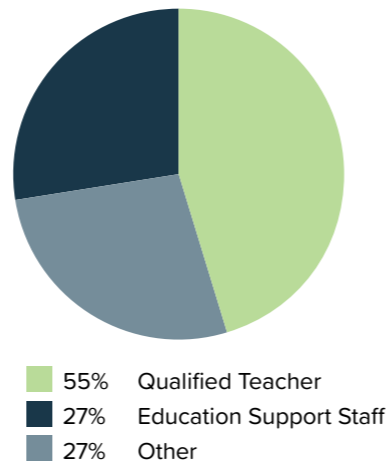
Employment Status



Gender



Teaching Staff



Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Staff*

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Prajwol Aryal | Facilities and IT |
| Vishnu Gopala Pillai | HR |
| Simon Harris | Finance |
| Maree Morgan | Compliance |
| Kathleen Parer | Marketing |

*These staff members are employed by Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services and have been allocated time to work for Djerriwarrh Community College. We are grateful for the support and expertise of these staff members.



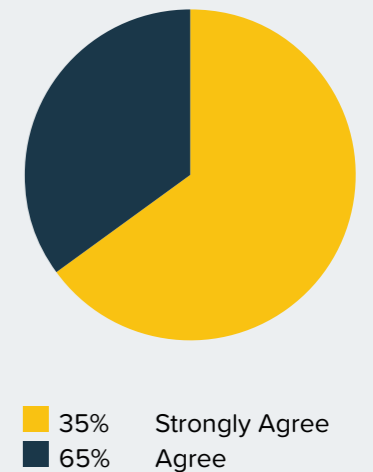
Child Safety

Djerriwarrh Community College is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

We pay particular attention to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability. In 2021 we promoted student empowerment and see the protection of our students from abuse as our responsibility.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse.

I feel safe at my school



Curriculum

In 2021, our curriculum delivery was flexible; student centred and provided a framework to establish community partnerships. We used an Applied Learning approach where students learn by experience, learning happens within the context of real situations and learning is personalised to the learners needs. We focussed on real life application and took into account different learning styles.

Applied Learning at Djerriwarrh Community College included:

- learning in classroom contexts
- learning in community contexts
- adult learning in vocational learning contexts
- work based learning in workplace settings
- project based learning involving 'real world' issues



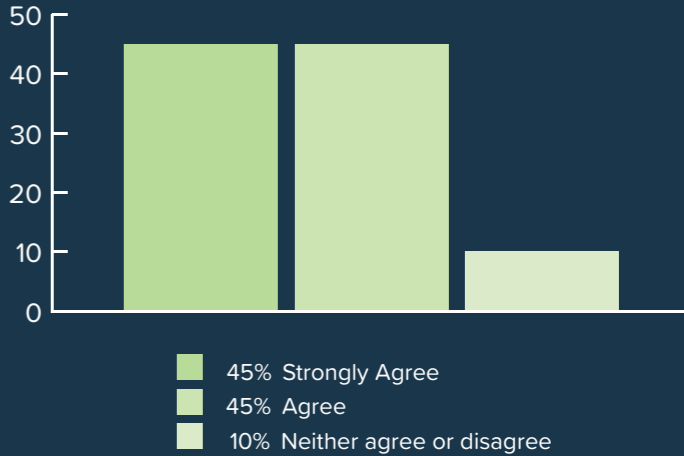
Teachers worked collaboratively to develop learning programs at each level that:

- provided opportunities for students to develop skills and knowledge, including employability skills, through learning experiences relevant to students' personal experiences, cultural backgrounds and further study and/or employment goals
- provided a holistic approach to the development of skills and ensured that students were able to identify and apply these skills within authentic social and working environments
- provided a holistic and alternate approach in supporting students with identified learning, welfare and social needs
- supported students to make informed vocational choices within specific industry sectors and/or to facilitate pathways to further learning
- met VCAA accredited curriculum learning outcomes

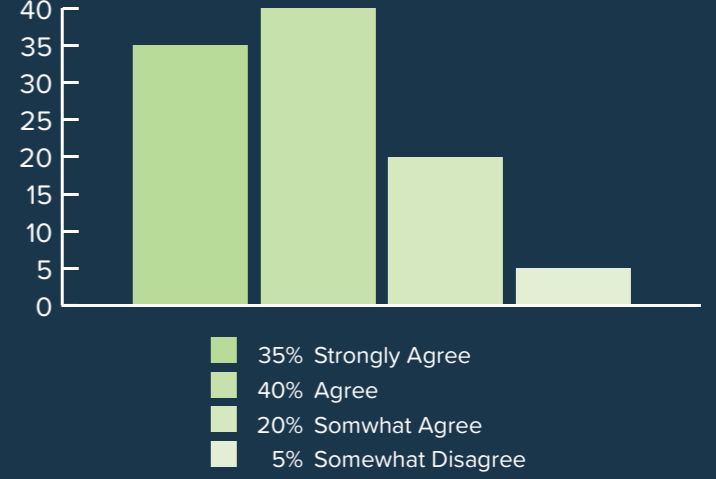
Djerriwarrh Community College utilised a Professional Learning Community (PLC) approach to improving student outcomes. The PLC created an opportunity for teachers to work collaboratively and to establish a culture that is focused upon continuous improvement by linking needs of students with professional learning.

Adaptable
We respond to students needs in creative and flexible ways

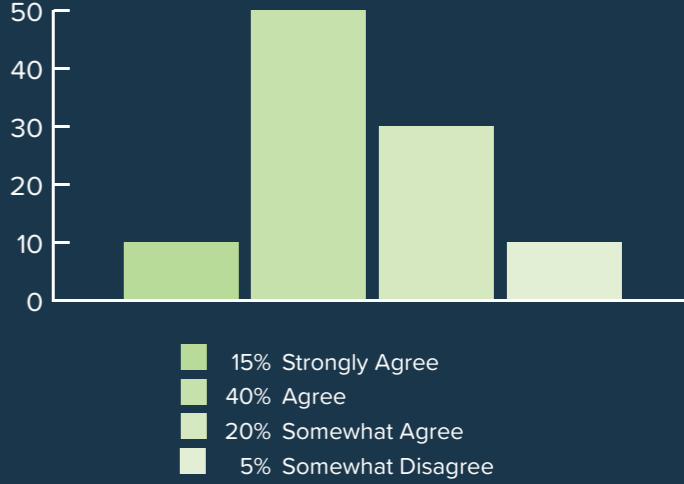
Q6 My teachers give me extra help when I need it



Q10 My teacher encourages all students to do their best



Q21 I have a say in the things I learn



Student Engagement & Wellbeing

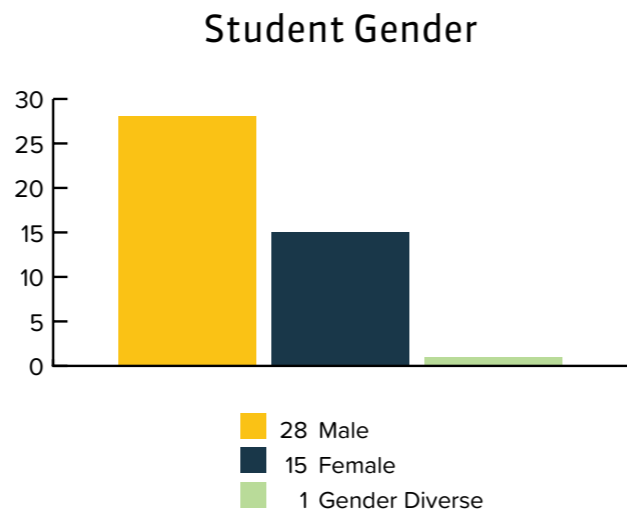
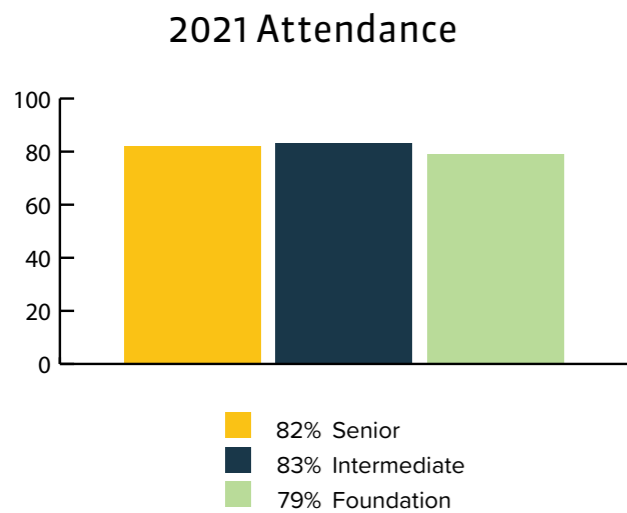
2021 saw a return to remote learning for our staff and students. During this time the team developed a range of whole of school strategies to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships for all students.

- We prioritised positive relationships between staff and students, recognising the fundamental role this plays in building and sustaining student wellbeing.
- We followed the philosophy and methods of Restorative Practices and maintained a culture of support and inclusivity.
- We analysed and were responsive to a range of school data such as attendance, student surveys, parent survey data, student management data and school level assessment data.
- We adopted a range of teaching and assessment approaches to effectively respond to the diverse learning styles and the remote learning environment.
- We created and maintained opportunities for community connections through online delivery and seminars.

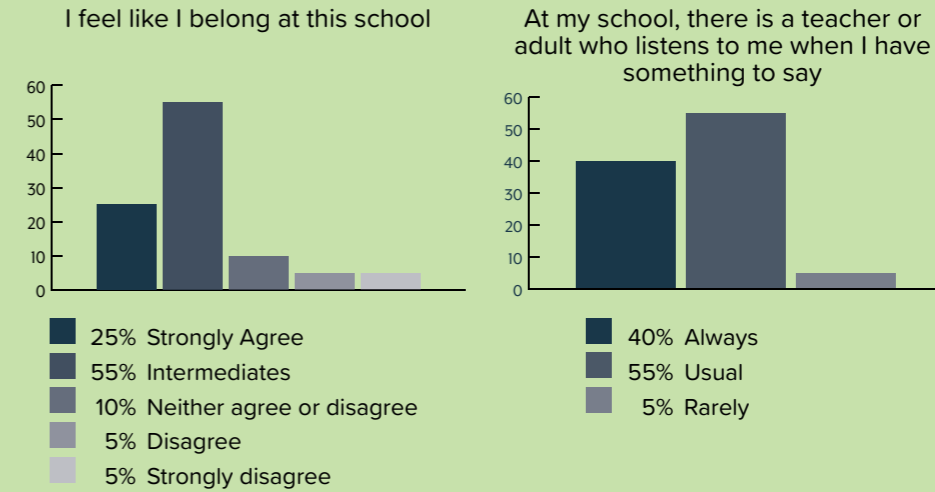
Alongside the whole of school approach, we worked closely with individual students to ensure that ongoing social and emotional supports were provided.

- We built constructive relationships with students at risk or students who are vulnerable due to complex individual circumstances.
- We developed Individual Learning Plans and/or Mental Health Support Plans for students.
- We considered whether any environmental changes were needed.
- We referred to external assessment and support services when required.

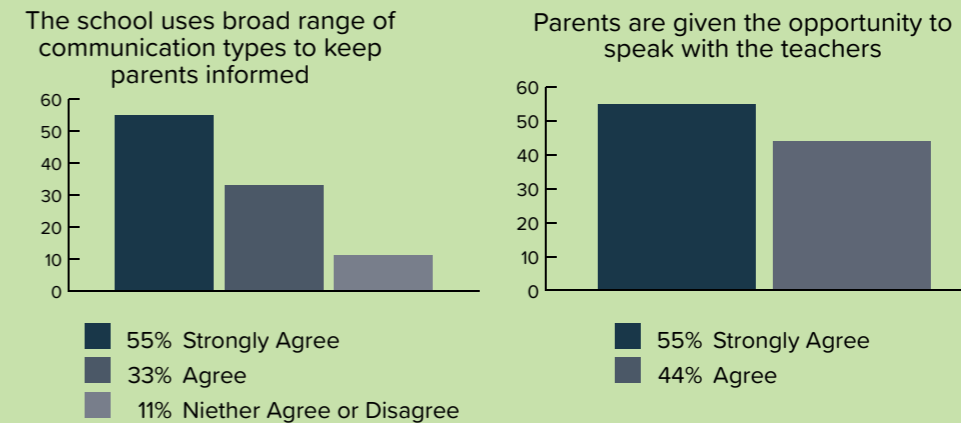
We manage student absences with regular care team meetings, phone consultations, flexible learning options, youth worker support and wellbeing consultations. We monitored student attendance and implemented attendance improvement strategies at a whole school, cohort and individual level.



Student Survey Responses



Parent Survey Responses



Staff Profile

I support the wellbeing of everyone at Djerriwarrh Community College, and try to provide a safe and comfortable environment for students to flourish.

I am a qualified art therapist, which allows students to express themselves through creative mediums such as drawing and art making.

I deliver weekly home group sessions to students, where we focus on developing respectful relationships, rapport building and self-expression.

I have regular contact with students, inside and outside of the classroom. Through weekly wellbeing sessions, I support students in addressing factors contributing to their disengagement. I also bring the perspective of wellbeing and student advocacy to discussions with school staff.

My favourite thing about working at Djerriwarrh is the students. No matter the issues, concerns or barriers they face, they remain open to collaborating and working to resolve the issues they face. I learn so much from each student past and present and no two situations are the same.

I appreciate the small size of the school. I can get to know each student on a deeper level and provide wrap around support that is more difficult to achieve in a mainstream school setting. It's an inspiration to see young people who face so many barriers and challenges still turn up to school with a desire to learn. That is true strength and I am always in awe of their capabilities.



Amy Abdullah
Youth Worker



Careers and Pathways

The graduating class of 2021 worked incredibly hard this year and displayed resilience and fortitude in achieving their Senior VCAL certificates.

Students have overcome great adversity this year with a move to remote learning. Despite the challenges, our staff and students worked collaboratively to prepare for life beyond the classroom.

- Students have developed knowledge and understanding of themselves and the personal attributes they bring to situations through self-assessment, including their strengths, limitations, abilities, skills, qualities, needs, attitudes and values.
- Students have developed knowledge and understanding of their options after compulsory school and explored a range of opportunities and pathways.
- Students have learned how to make considered choices and plan options in relation to further study, careers and employment.
- Students have effectively managed the implementation of these choices and the transitions from Djerriwarrh Community College
- Students have developed networking and career mapping skills.

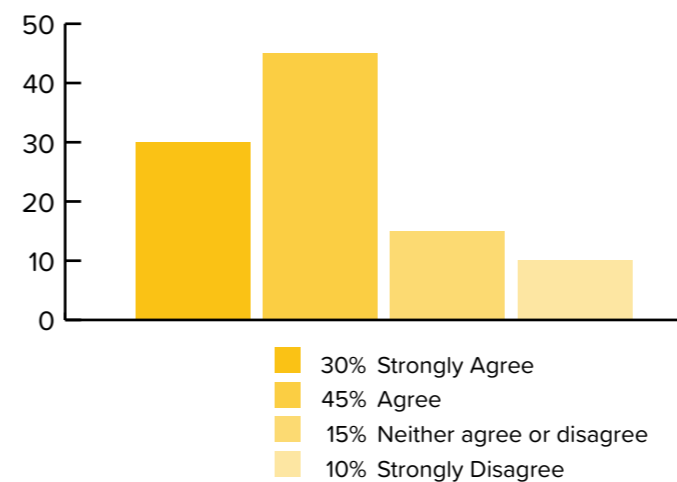
Our senior students are looking forward to the next chapter. Some students are starting full time work, others have accepted apprenticeship opportunities and others are progressing to TAFE.

We hope that no matter what path they choose, that they remember that the staff at Djerriwarrh community College are always here to support them and to advocate for them.

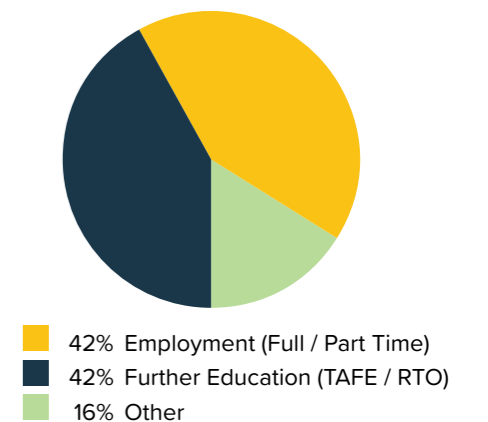
“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

Malcolm X

Q22 The work I do is preparing me for the future. The things I am learning will help me in my adult life.



Seniors Careers and Pathways 2021



Community Partnerships

Djerriwarrh Community College has been committed to working with the community to better support young people in Melton. Our staff have played a significant role in identifying the needs of our students and working to develop key partnerships. These community partnerships have enhanced student engagement and wellbeing.

Our program included;

- Breakfast Club, Cohealth Bus BBQs and weekly sports program through Reclink
- Think You Know, a personal safety program from the Victoria Police
- Headspace and HALT program, workshops that focus on young men's mental health
- In League in Harmony, a program from the NRL focussing on respect, responsibility and inclusiveness. This program promotes social cohesion, addresses disengagement and empowers youth to be agents of change.
- Contender Program, a weekly mentoring workshop including Mixed Mental Attitudes, Hip Hop Narrative Therapy and The Relentless Martial Arts therapy

We work closely with community organisations to deliver these services and programs that improve the opportunities and resources available to students. These partnerships provide an opportunity for students to access services and for us to better meet students' social and emotional needs.




Respectful
 We treat all members of our community fair and equal

We are thankful for the generosity of our partners.





Djerriwarrh
Community College

