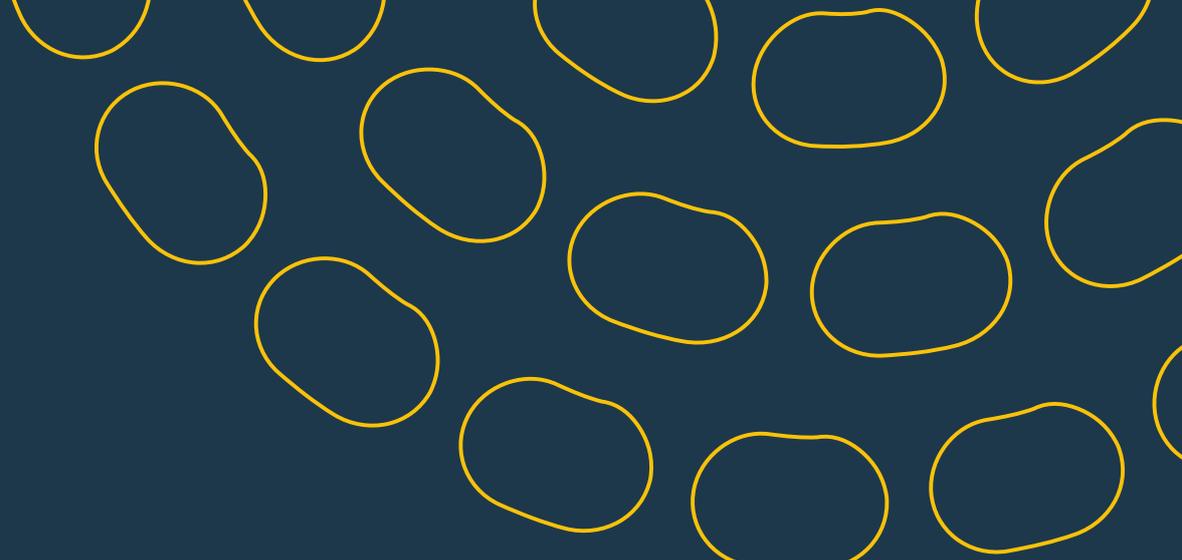

Annual Report 2023



Djerriwarrh
Community College



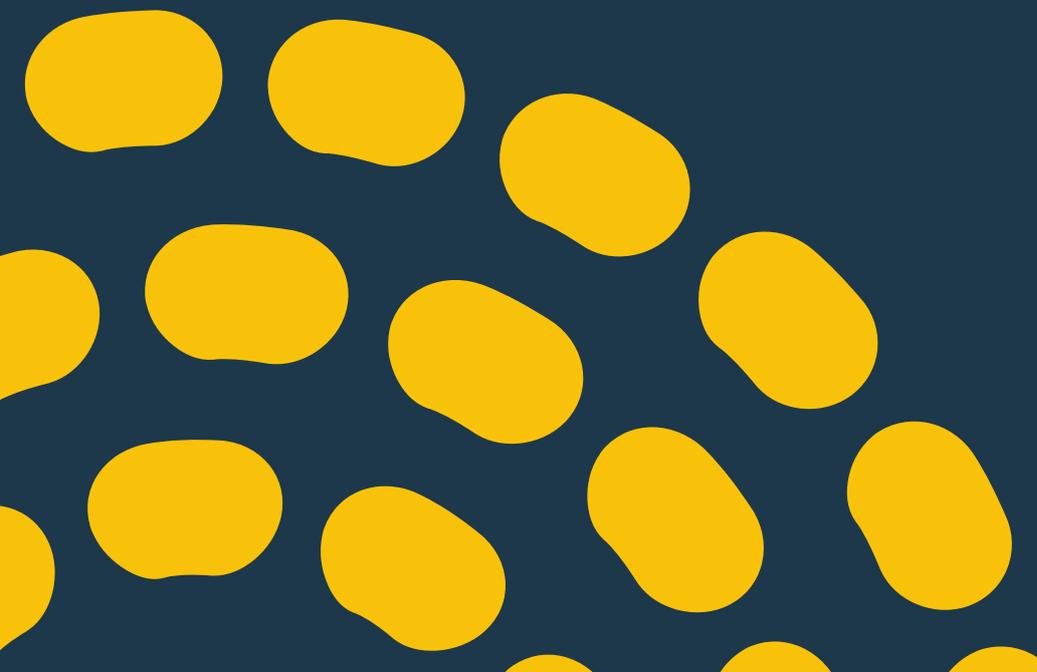


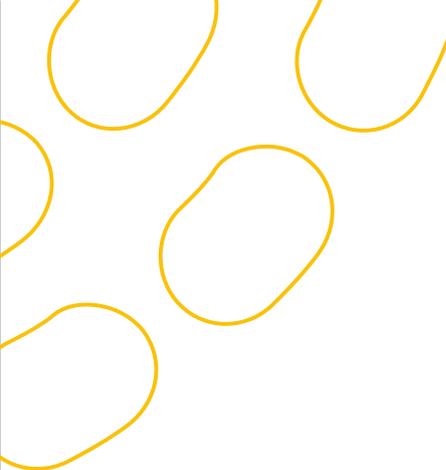
Acknowledgement of Country

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.

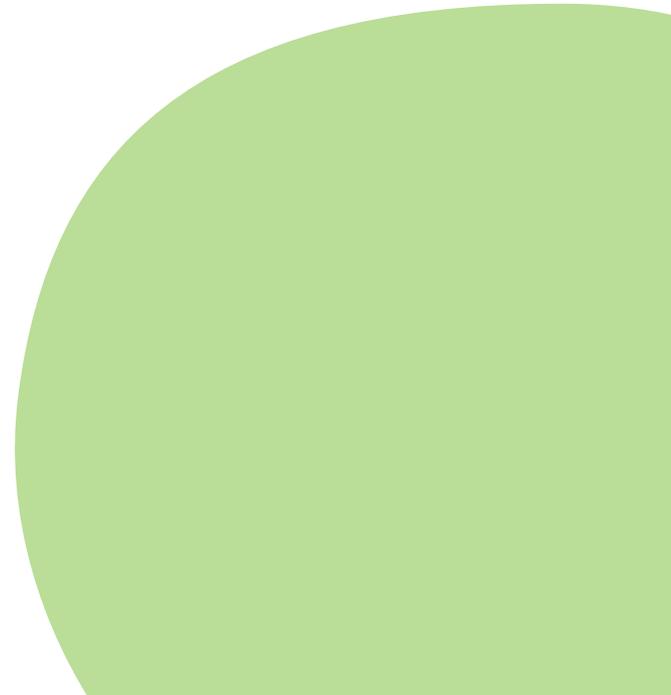
Diversity Statement

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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Council Chair's Report

In last year's Annual Report, I quoted from Peter Drucker; "the best way to predict the future is to create it." The College's prediction for the future can be found in our Strategic Plan. The creation of the future comes through its implementation and the creative ways that staff, students, and the community, work together to develop programs and garner the necessary resources to meet the unique needs of our young people. In this report I will touch on a few of the highlights that have clearly demonstrated this year. But before doing so I would like to thank all members of the College staff, students and engaged members of the community for the part they have played in supporting student learning, career pathways, and indeed, positive life outcomes for our kids.

It has been encouraging to see that our student enrolments have remained steady since the school first opened in 2021. Enrolments and community support for the College and its programs demonstrates we are meeting a particular educational need in Melton. A great affirmation of this came when Sam Rae the Federal Member for Hawke announced in a letter to our Principal, Amy Farrell, that the Federal Education Minister had approved a 3-million-dollar grant for the construction of our new school. The site of our new school will be next door at 233 Station Road. Sam Rae MP in a letter to our principal stated:

"Djerriwarrh Community College plays a vital role in ensuring our local kids have access to the best opportunities available. He acknowledged that, "The successes of Djerriwarrh Community College are a testament to the dedication of staff, educators and the whole team at Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services."

Our Principal, Amy Farrell, staff and students were excited to host a visit from Sam Rae MP on Tuesday December 5th 2023. Students and staff showed the Member around the College, discussing the issues it faced as well as its aspirations. Tony Kopestenski (parent representative on School Council) and I, along with Trish Heffernan, CEO of DCES and some of her staff, also had the privilege of discussing the College with our Federal Member on the day.

The graduation of our VM2 students was heart-warming. The number of students who successfully completed their learning at the College with a clear pathway into further education, training and employment was impressive. Even more impressive was the obvious positive relationships between students and staff. I believe strong relationships are born from delivering on promises, trust, care, and respect for each other, with responsibility taken between individuals. This is the foundation for an inclusive school, supports learning, career pathways and life outcomes.

Programs like the Respectful Relationships initiative, a personalised student-centred curriculum, the College's student support structures and student participation in decision making have all contributed to building this positive learning and inclusive support culture. This has been supported with learning experiences, excursions and key events like the Women's Circus, the Parliament House visit, Geocaching in the Melton Botanic Garden and the Salvation Army Youth Homelessness tour.

2023 saw the College's governance enhanced by including student representatives on School Council. Two of our student representatives were among our VM2 graduates. A special thanks to Graeson and Scott for being active members of the School Council. I also thank all school Council members for contributing their expertise. 2024 will be a very exciting year in the development of Djerriwarrh Community College where our future will continue to be created.



Peter Blunden
Chair

Principal's Welcome

Welcome all students & families to the 2023 Djerriwarrh Community College Annual Report. The start of a new school year is always exciting, and I would like to thank our students, families and staff for making the transition back to school a seamless one. We were very glad to welcome members of our school community back for what was a productive and pleasurable year.

In 2023, we welcomed several new staff members; Emily Kalos, Madison Mangion, Grace Myers who have joined our Education Support Team. Shahida Yasmeen and Kim Snooks also joined our Teaching Team. We are lucky to have their experience and expertise in the classroom. In March, we also welcomed Jeanette Williams into the position of Assistant Principal, Jeanette has a wealth of knowledge in the Vocational Education Sector and 17 years of teaching experience. The College was very fortunate to gain Jeanette's experience and knowledge.

From the outset of the school year, the College focused on developing key community partnerships. We worked with SPELD Victoria, the Equine Therapy program, Fit 2 Drive and Reclink Victoria. We also established a new partnership with Jobco Victoria, through this partnership we were able to offer onsite counselling session through our Provisional Psychologist Tim Slingsby and support with employment and pathways through a Community Liaison Officer.

Throughout the year, our students participated in a wide variety of community programs. Students represented Djerriwarrh Community College at a variety of events including International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), PJ Day, Youth Homelessness Events, First Aid Training, and the WILD outdoor education program which promotes bush adventure therapy. It was wonderful for our students to engage with community members and celebrate our partner organisations and the services they provide to the community in Melton. These opportunities also allowed students to develop key skills in public speaking, building resilience and promoting inclusion and diversity throughout the community.

As we commenced the second half of the school year, it has been a pleasure to see our students approach this term with enthusiasm and hard work. For some, the new semester allowed students to build upon the foundations laid in Terms one and two, for others, it has been a chance to regroup and refocus on their journey to complete their certificate.

Students participated in the DCC Careers Day where they explored career opportunities, universities, TAFE training programs and options for beyond Djerriwarrh Community College. In 2023 students also participated in the STEM careers excursion at Western Base where they participated in coding, app creation and rocket experiments.

This year we had 10 senior students achieve their VCE Vocational Major Certificate.

Congratulations to the following students who received individual awards

Academic Achievement

Soula Constantinou

Caring Award

Riley Attard-Dewhirst

Inclusivity Award

Graeson Cashmore

The commitment and perseverance demonstrated by all 2023 graduates should be commended and celebrated. Djerriwarrh Community College staff are very proud of our students and wish them all the best, as they transition into their chosen pathway.

After receiving a grant from the Australian Government Capital Grants Program (CGP) for Non-Government Schools in 2023, Djerriwarrh Community College is looking forward to beginning the construction of a new school building at 233 Station Road, Melton in 2024. This is evidence of colleges ongoing commitment to support the young people of Melton and the wider community.

I would also like to thank the Djerriwarrh Community College School Council and Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Board for their ongoing support throughout the year.



Amy Farrell
Principal

Djerriwarrh Community College School Council



Peter Blunden
Chair

Peter has 15 years of school leadership experience at Kurunjang Secondary College, where he was Principal for 10 years. He also has significant leadership experience in adult, community and lifelong learning with the City of Melton and an ongoing interest in education and learning in the Melton region. Peter was Secretary of the Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Board for 17 years prior to becoming Chair of the Djerriwarrh Community College School Council.



Tegan Tregoe
School Council
Member

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.



Don Nardella
Treasurer

Don was a Member of Parliament for the Seat of Melton from 1999 to 2018. He has an interest in looking after people and providing services and education that will help them for the rest of their lives. Don enjoys reading, listening to heavy metal music and motorcycling.



Tony Kopestenski
School Council
Member

Tony is the parent representative on the Djerriwarrh Community College Board and has his child at the school. He is an active member of Community and has lived in Melton for many years.



Scott Attard-Dewhirst
School Council
Member

Scott is the student representative on the Djerriwarrh Community College school council. Scott enrolled in the college in 2021 and is currently completing the VCE Vocational Major certificate. Scott has grown up in Melton and is an active member of the Student Representative Council.



Graeson Cashmore
School Council
Member

Graeson is the student representative on the Djerriwarrh Community College school council. Graeson enrolled in the college in 2022 and is currently completing the VCE Vocational Major certificate. Graeson has grown up in Melton and is an active member of the Student Representative Council.



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.

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Board

Christine Pilbeam
Chair

Don Nardella
Secretary

Meg Clements
Director

Stuart Deagan
Deputy Chair

Denise Lumsden
Director

Jane Traveskis
Director
(from June 2023)

Doris Cunningham
Treasurer

Jeremie Nguyen
Director

Aaron Valasingvicius
Director
(from June 2023)

Vision

To provide a community college that encourages and inspires students to reach their individual personal, social and educational potential.



Values



Caring

We provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.



Inclusive

We put the needs of our students first and welcome diversity in our school community.



Respectful

We treat all members of our school community fairly and equally.



Accountable

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

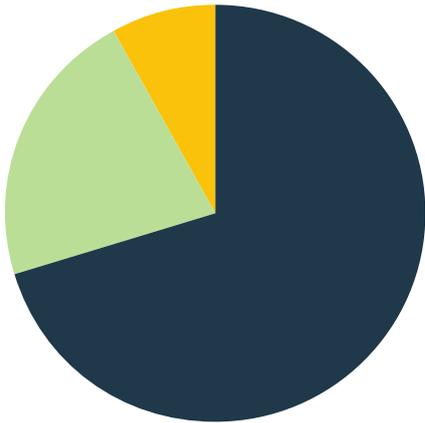


Adaptable

We respond to students needs in creative and flexible ways.

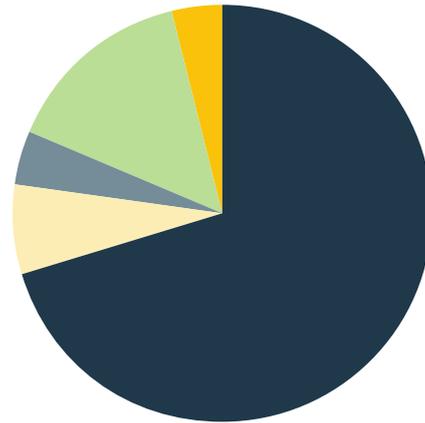
Financials

Revenue



- 70.3% – Federal Government Grants
- 21.7% – State Government Grants
- 8% – Other Funding

Expenditure from Operating Activities



- 70.5% – Staff Salaries and On Costs
- 6.9% – Curriculum
- 4.2% – Student Safety and Welfare
- 14.7% – Facilities and Resources
- 3.7% – Governance and Compliance

Revenue		\$2,272,055
Federal Government Grants	70.3%	\$1,597,749
State Government Grants	21.7%	\$494,007
Other Funding	8%	\$180,299

Expenditure from Operating Activities		\$1,638,883
Staff Salaries and On Costs	70.5%	\$1,154,790
Curriculum	6.9%	\$113,677
Student Safety and Welfare	4.2%	\$68,212
Facilities and Resources	14.7%	\$240,829
Governance and Compliance	3.7%	\$61,375

Total Operating Surplus	\$633,171
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DCC Staffing

Djerriwarrh Community College delivers the curriculum collaboratively; while supporting students to overcome personal barriers and to achieve their education potential. Our team is dedicated to providing wrap around support and assisting students in developing life skills. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

Amy Farrell
Principal

Jeanette Williams
Assistant Principal

Amy Abdullah
Youth Worker

Sween Sharma
Administration
Officer

Marianne Santos
Teacher

Josh Van Den Berg
Teacher

Tanya Osborne
Teacher

Rajneet Kaur
Teacher

Kim Snooks
Teacher

Paula Reynolds
Education
Support
Coordinator

Grace Myers
Education
Support Worker

Madison Mangion
Education
Support Worker

Emily Kalos
Education
Support Worker

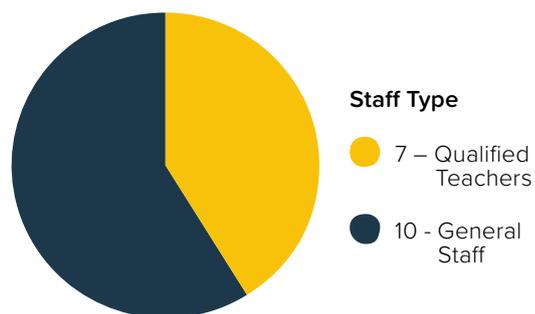
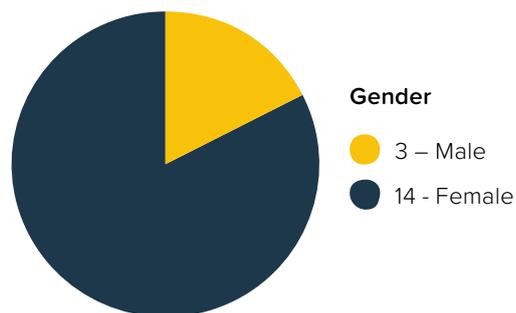
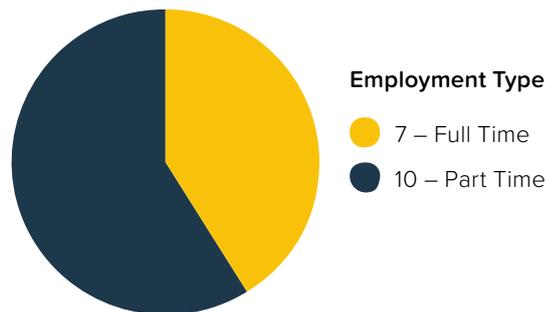
Maree Morgan
Compliance

Simon Harris
Finance

Kathleen Parer
Marketing

Huynh Nguyen
IT

Employment status





Staff profile — Jeanette Williams

My role as the Assistant Principal at Djerriwarrh Community College is a very rewarding one. I facilitate learning that provides a safe and inclusive learning environment for vulnerable young people who have experienced disrupted learning. I regularly communicate with parents, staff, students, and members of our school and wider community, to ensure the best outcomes are reached for each student and that everyone understands the decisions that are made.

I enjoy leading and managing a team of staff that have varied expertise and experience. I mentor and coach staff in how to manage student behaviour using trauma informed and restorative practice models. I support these teachers to extend their practice through classroom activities and strategies that are appropriate to their classes.

The VPC and the VCE VM programs are aimed at giving students greater choice and options within their secondary schooling. In my time at DCC I have expanded the VET program to ensure that the VET courses allow students

to pursue an education that is going to build on their strengths and interests and helps them achieve their aspirations and goals. I am so passionate about our VET program because I believe the learning activities and assessments within our onsite VET courses encourage critical thinking, adaptiveness and gives students confidence to be more resilient and adaptive.

My greatest passion in life after my family, is food. I love imparting my passion for cooking as the trainer for our Certificate 1 in VET Hospitality. My students have gained valuable knowledge in areas such as OHS, hygiene and skills in preparing simple dishes this term. The engagement of these students has increased across all classes as their attendance rates have increased. Students have proudly served staff during various catering functions this term and have been able to showcase their talents and growth. I am extremely proud of the confident and capable hospitality workers they have become.

Child Safety

Djerriwarrh Community College nominates child safety champions to support child safety. The child safety champion works with the school leadership team, teacher, students, and the wider school community to create a child safe environment through the school.

Through the promotion of child safety culture, the champion provides support and guidance to members of the school community. Annual training and education ensure all staff and volunteers receive updated information.

Djerriwarrh Community College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our school community recognises the importance of, and the responsibility of ensuring our school is a safe and supportive environment that respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of all young people attending the College.

This Child Safety Code of Conduct outlines appropriate standards of behaviour for all adults towards students. The Code serves to protect students, reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur, and promotes child safety in the College environment. It provides guidance on how to best support students and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations.





Statement of Commitment

Djerriwarrh Community College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Djerriwarrh Community College has zero tolerance for child abuse.

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. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal students, students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, international students, students who are unable to live at home and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) students.

Every person involved in Djerriwarrh Community College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Djerriwarrh Community College has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Teaching and Learning

Flexible Learning Program

In 2023 Djerriwarrh Community College implemented a pilot Flexible Learning Program with the intention of targeting highly disengaged young people, who due to several complex barriers, were unable to be in a classroom setting. The aim was to increase student engagement, wellbeing and improve life outcomes. Three students were accepted into the program in 2023 and worked outside of the classroom under the supervision of the Education Support Coordinator. To capture the data required, all participating students and their guardians completed entry and exit documentation including:

- **Entry/Exit survey** – to compare school routines, sleep routines, screen routines etc.
- **School Refusal Assessment Scale** – to ascertain why the student is school refusing,
- **Positive Reinforcement Survey** – to ascertain how to motivate the student
- **Graded Exposure Steps** – student led incremental steps involved in exposing student to school environment.

Exit surveys completed at the end of the year indicated an increase in positive school, sleep and screen routines, less anxiety around attending school and talking about school at home and increased feelings of safety while at school.



At Djerriwarrh Community College, we deliver hands on, flexible and student-centered curriculum.

Our learning is practical and contextualized to real situations.

Student A, who had been homeschooled for 8 years and had completely disengaged with learning, successfully completed all VPC subjects. They were enrolled in Literacy, Numeracy, Work Related Skills and Professional Development Skills in 2023. This leaves just the VET component to be completed in 2024. Flexi attendance levels tracked at 70% 56% 60% and 67% across all 4 terms. Student A also made efforts to engage with peers and teachers.

Student B, a VM2 student was able to successfully complete her certificate and graduate along with the rest of her class. Term 1, this student worked exclusively in pods and the office area. Term 2 the student transitioned to attending class one day per week to work on VET and continuing in Flexi one day per week. In Term 3, the student began to participate in excursions and came to PDS and WRS class to complete applied learning tasks. At the 2023 graduation, this student won the award for academic achievement. Attendance of Flexi students across all four terms tracked at 80% 70% 90% and 83%. This does not include VET attendance and in-class attendance.

Student C's Flexi attendance for Terms 1 tracked at 80%. The second half of term 2 and all of terms 3 and 4 saw attendance drop off. No engagement with VET. Attempts at engagement included weekly sessions with DCC Youth Worker to explore strategies on sleep hygiene, regular sessions with Provisional Psychologist offered, option of completing VCE VM2 over two years, providing hard copies of tasks to take home to complete. All attempts at reengagement proved unsuccessful and this student did not graduate along with their peers.

Parent feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and gratitude has been expressed numerous times. Key learnings were that all individual participants will measure success differently and that success will look different from the perspective of a student /parent and the school. Djerriwarrh Community College will continue to run the Flexible Learning Program in 2024.

Class Projects

Student Mural

Through a collaboration of homegroup sessions, a partnership with Dulux Melton and Personal Development Skills class, students and staff worked together to create an outdoor school mural highlighting the school values and what they mean to the DCC community. Students collaboratively worked on a chosen school value and developed the design, colours and imagery.

The Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) class chose 'Respect', the Victorian Major Year 1 students chose 'Inclusivity' and the Victorian Major Year 2 cohort chose 'Caring'. Students then collaboratively worked on 'accountability' and 'adaptability'.

Each student took pride in their chosen mural and worked with their classmates to ensure everyone played a part in the creation of the artwork. These murals brighten up the outdoor space and make DCC feel more welcoming for our students and visitors.

Creating weighted blankets in Numeracy

Numeracy is an often-overlooked aspect of our everyday lives; we are using a variety of numeracy skills all throughout the day often without even realising it. Students in Victorian Pathways Certificate put their numeracy skills into action by sewing weighted lap blankets. This project utilised their basic arithmetic skills of division and multiplication and their measurement skills in length, area, perimeter and weight. Students enjoyed learning in a hands-on manner and all produced a completed lap blanket.



Student Engagement & Wellbeing

The College is committed to providing an inclusive environment and to enhancing the opportunities for participation in programs and services on offer, regardless of culture, age, religion, sexuality, gender, political affiliation, ability or disability and, which is free from discrimination, harassment and racism.

We have developed a range of whole school strategies, alongside individual interventions to promote engagement, positive behaviour and respectful relationships for all students. This year students participated in various intervention programs including:

Minus 18:

Students had a guest speaker from Minus18 intervention. Minus18 is an organisation that provides information, clarification, supports and services to young people that are a part of our allies of the LGBTQIA+ community. Students were involved in the incursion where the facilitator explained and went over LGBTQIA+ identities, concepts, terminology, experiences, and barriers, celebrating diversity and exploring ways to take action and safely support peers. All 3 classes were involved in their separate sessions with a total of 21 students attending that day. All students recommended that these sessions should happen again and that they would recommend it to others. The facilitator also commented that they enjoyed their time with us and the feel of the school. We will have Minus18 return in 2024.

Equine Therapy:

Our VM1 students attended 2 full days of Equine Therapy through The Centre of Trauma and Wellness (CTW) in Pakenham. Students learnt different mindfulness strategies and had the opportunity to ground themselves out in nature and interact and learn from the horses on regulating their emotions. DCC has a great relationship with the facilitators at The Centre of Trauma and Wellness and students always had a very positive comments regarding this intervention. Some comments from students this year were: "I learnt awareness for myself and others... the horses can feel how we feel", "I learnt patience and to be aware of my emotions through the interactions with the horses".





2023 Community Partnership Report

In 2023 Djerriwarrh Community College partnered with Jobco, a multidisciplinary employment assistance and support service provider. Tim Slingsby, a provisional psychologist working at Jobco, was included in this partnership to provide psychological services onsite at DCC two days a week. Tim is trained in trauma informed care, family systems, mindfulness approaches in therapy, and has a personal interest in working with young people, so he brought a great deal of knowledge and enthusiasm to the role.

Tim's primary role at DCC was to provide one on one therapy to students. Working from a private pod away from the classrooms, students were booked in for sessions and could discuss whatever they felt like, completely separate from their schooling and staff. At a time in which learning about who you are, how you relate to others and what your place in the world might look like, all while navigating

your education, this therapy service was invaluable to the students accessing it.

One of the most rewarding aspects of providing therapy to the students of DCC for Tim was playing a role to assist students with understanding their experience and how to effectively express themselves. Tim likes to work collaboratively with the students at DCC; not necessarily from a place of giving advice but more through asking questions and helping them unpack their own experiences in a compassionate and gentle way. From there students can develop skills around managing their experience and how they can start making the changes they want to make. Tim found working with students and staff a tremendously rewarding experience, so much so that he agreed to return in 2024 in a greater capacity.

Careers & Pathways Report 2023

The graduating class of 2023 at Djerriwarrh Community College (DCC) has successfully completed their VCE – Vocational Major (VM) Year 2 Certificates, marking the culmination of a challenging yet profoundly meaningful journey. Throughout this academic year, DCC has prioritised the holistic development of our students, equipping them with the values, knowledge and skills essential for navigating their diverse career pathways.

This year, our Careers and Pathways Team is stronger than ever, demonstrating another significant milestone in our commitment to our students' success. This dedicated team spearheaded the implementation of comprehensive career education initiatives and continued and improved formal processes and strengths-based approach, aimed at empowering students to make informed decisions about their educational and vocational futures. The primary objective of our Career Education program is to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world career opportunities. Through carefully planned programs and immersive learning experiences, students at DCC have been exposed to a diverse array of educational, training, and workplace settings, thus broadening their understanding of potential pathways.

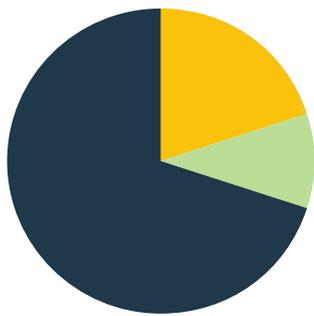
Djerriwarrh Community College is proud to have established robust partnerships with a range of local community organizations and stakeholders. Collaborating with Future Connect, The Ladder Program, Reconnect, The Exchange Program, Greater Western Waters, and Leisure Employment Australia (LEA) have enriched our students' educational experiences, as well as opening opportunities for School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. These organizations have provided invaluable support in areas such as job application assistance, updates on local job opportunities, scholarship applications, course guidance, traineeships, and volunteering opportunities. By engaging with these community partners, DCC students have gained practical, real-life knowledge and skills essential for their future endeavours.

In addition to our comprehensive Career Education Program, we are thrilled to highlight the impactful experiences that our students have enjoyed throughout the academic year. Our commitment to student-centred learning is reflected in the range of incursions, industry experiences, and excursions tailored to students' interests and suggestions. Some of the highlights are:

- Industry Visits / Experiences - DCC organised visits to local businesses and organizations, giving students a firsthand exposure to different work environments, OH&S and other work practices. Our trip to the Amazon Warehouse at Ravenhall is one of the favourites as we're one of the first schools who have seen their premises, machineries, and how they operate. They also shared job opportunities and requirements. These visits not only broadened students' understanding of potential career but also fostered connections between classroom learning and real-world applications.
- Career Expos - Attendance to both 2023 Melton Careers Expo at Tabcorp Park and Melbourne Careers Expo 2023, held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre always set our students and staff in a buzz. These premier events provided students with a unique opportunity to explore a wide range of career options, interact with industry representatives, and gain valuable insights into tertiary education and training pathways.

Career's Day at DCC - Term 4 2023 kicked in with "Careers Day", a whole day event where Education, Apprenticeships and TAFE Providers like Tyson from Arrive and Thrive, Gavin from HeadStart Apprenticeship and Traineeship Victoria, Margaret from Leisure Employment Australia, Steve from MAS Apprenticeships, Greater Western Water, William Angliss and Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services (DCES) presented information sessions and various courses that they offer in 2024. Each provider showcased what they do best to further assist students in course application, jobs, apprenticeships and traineeships, scholarships, and student life; had a virtual tour of their facilities; and invited DCC in their 2023/2024 Open / Experience Days. They also answered all questions from our students as well as generously gave career advice and consultations, especially when it comes to apprenticeships. Feedback from students was amazing – they all mentioned that they had a productive day, different from their usual learning experiences.

Because of the comprehensive career supports, and programs in place, 70% of our graduating students were accepted and enrolled into TAFE courses for 2024 – an increasing trend every year. Some of the universities, colleges, RTOs and TAFEs including RMIT, Victoria Polytechnic, Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services, and The Gordon Institute. 20% of our students are actively participating in full-time apprenticeship programs and 10% of the students were starting part-time and full-time work. Industries where they choose to work and study are Health, Community & Youth Services, Education, Automotive and Trades.



**DCC Seniors 2023
Careers & Pathways**

- 20% – Apprenticeship or Trades
- 10% – Employment Part-Time & Full Time
- 70% – Further Education/TAFE

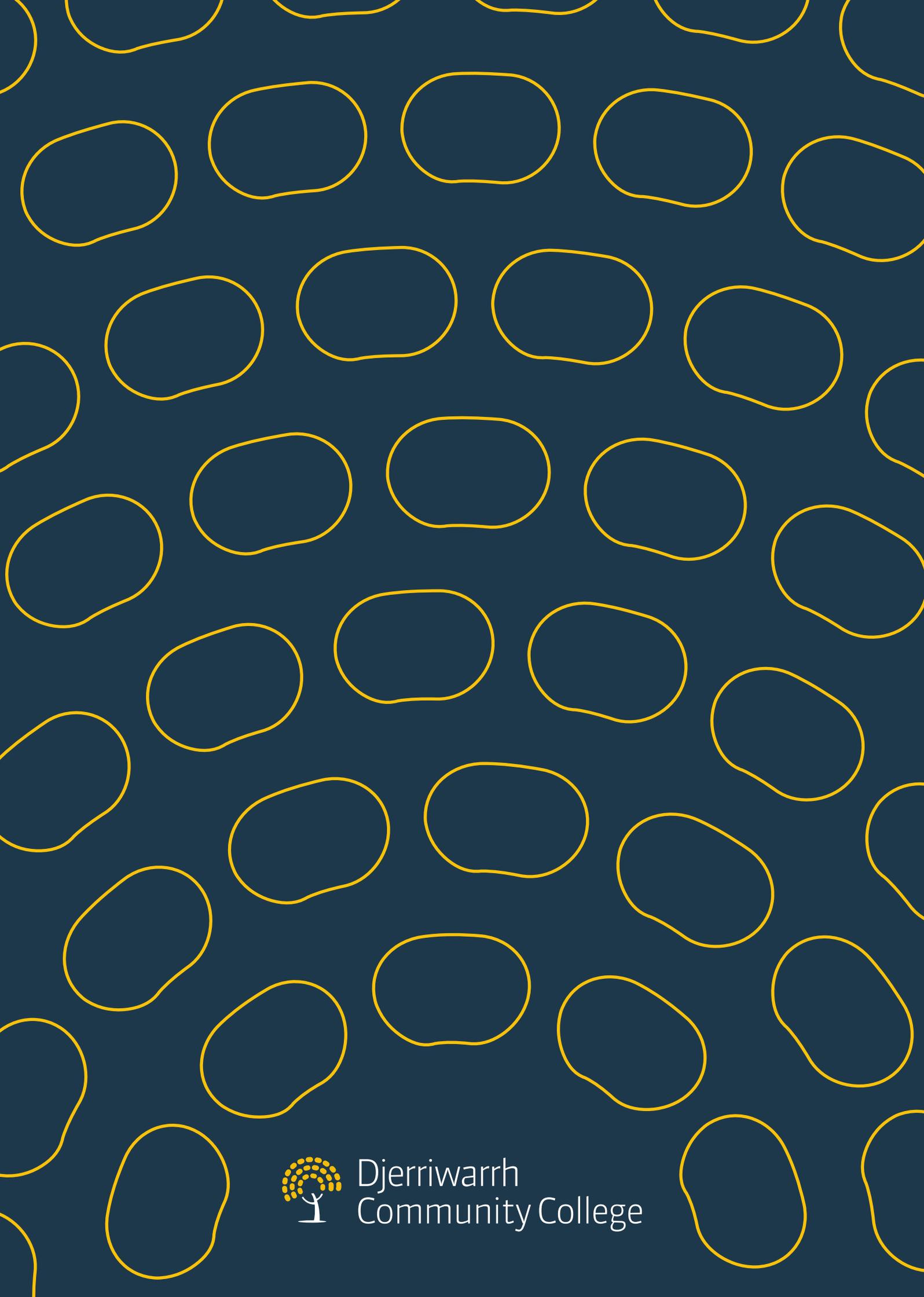
The remarkable achievements of our 2023 graduates vividly illustrates the profound impact of the right mindset, unwavering support system, and a positive attitude. As they embark on their diverse paths ahead, we extend our heartfelt wishes for their continued success and fulfillment. May they carry with them the assurance that the Djerriwarrh Community College stands steadfastly by their side, still ready to offer guidance, encouragement, and advocacy whenever needed. Together, let us celebrate their accomplishments and embrace the boundless possibilities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,



Marianne Santos
Teacher and Careers
& Pathways Coordinator





Djerriwarrh
Community College