

VicSRC ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



VicSRC acknowledges that our work takes place on Aboriginal lands never ceded, and that our office sits on the Wurundjeri lands of the Kulin Nation. We recognise and pay respects to all Aboriginal peoples as the custodians of this beautiful country on which we learn, play and grow. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal lands.



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BOARD CHAIR REPORT



VicSRC's Board Chair Howard Choo

I'm delighted to introduce VicSRC's first annual report, covering our first full year as an independent organisation following incorporation in late 2019.

Victorian students have spoken clearly about what the COVID-19 pandemic has meant for them – significant uncertainty, difficulties (and opportunities to learn) created by transitions between remote and face-to-face learning, a mental health crisis as declared by students and VicSRC itself earlier this year. In a year of extraordinary challenges for students, the members of the Student Executive Advisory Committee have provided great leadership across the full breadth of their activities, from undertaking high profile and successful advocacy on student priorities, to running an online Congress, representing VicSRC in public forums, supporting VicSRC's diverse student community, and engaging with students, schools and education decision-makers across the whole of Victoria.

In partnership with the Student Executive Committee and supported by VicSRC's staff team, the Board's focus this year has been on establishing strong governance arrangements – including further embedding students' role in VicSRC's leadership – and advising the Student Executive Committee in setting an ambitious and sustainable future course for VicSRC. We ended the year with a clear strategy and roadmap to guide the organisation into the future. Our goal is to put VicSRC in the best possible position to not only continue but significantly expand our impact and reach in elevating student voice in education in the years ahead.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our partners, including – among many others – the Department of Education and Training, the Victorian Electoral Commission, the Australian

Education Union and the many schools across Victoria who engage with VicSRC each year.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to acknowledge the contributions of the inaugural Board members who departed during the year – Gala Camacho, Erin Gillen, Sue Karzis and Scott Duncan. Scott's leadership in particular has been significant throughout VicSRC's history, most recently as VicSRC's inaugural Board chair.

I also want to thank our continuing Board members – Natalie Garcia de Heer, Chloe Papas and Edison Ponari – for their dedication and collegiality, and recognise the skill, hard work and leadership of VicSRC's CEO, Nina Laitala, and the expertise and commitment of VicSRC's small but mighty staff team. Without their efforts, VicSRC would not be the great organisation that it is.

It's an exciting time for VicSRC and there's every cause for optimism as we look ahead. Whatever the future holds, VicSRC will be there to stand with and for students – to elevate their voices to be heard, for a better education system for all!

Howard Choo, VicSRC Board Chair

CEO REPORT



VicSRC CEO Nina Laitala

“Students are not just the leaders of tomorrow, they’re the leaders of today.”

That statement has never been more accurate and more poignant than during the past 12 months. Students across Victoria have been in and out of lockdowns, remote learning and dealing with increasing uncertainty as COVID-19 continues to grip the world. While Victoria has been relatively lucky we can’t underestimate the impact these months will have on students for years to come. Some have struggled immensely, some have thrived and sadly, not all have survived. Mental health has been the number one advocacy priority for VicSRC as students declared a mental health crisis in schools.

VicSRC adapted to the ongoing changes to education, and life, with resilience. Working hard to ensure that students in Victoria were getting the most up-to-date information and to provide a feedback loop to decision makers about what students needed. Virtual Congress, our *Returning to remote learning* report, major advocacy wins, and welcoming our 2020–21 Student Executive Advisory Committee and 2021 Ambassadors has kept us busy, increased our engagement and brought new opportunities to influence decision making in education.

The staff at VicSRC have worked tirelessly to provide ongoing support for students, teachers and principals across Victoria through our resources, webinars, regional road trips, media stories and updated information. My deepest gratitude to Benita, Hayley, Tom, Kirsty, Tristan, Nell, Hella, David and Ian. Your hard work changes lives and it is an honour to work alongside you.

I echo Howard’s thanks to the inaugural Board of Trustees – in particular Scott Duncan who was instrumental in establishing VicSRC in its first iteration and as an independent organisation. I also extend my thanks to the current Board; Howard, Natalie, Edison and Chloe. Their commitment and support has ensured the integrity of VicSRC during a tumultuous year!

My heartfelt thanks and respect to the students from the 2019–20 and 2020–21 Student Executive Advisory Committees. Your wisdom, resilience and ability to advocate for your peers belies your age and it’s been truly humbling to work with you all.

And lastly, to the students of Victoria. You are the leaders of today and VicSRC will continue to elevate your voices to be heard and support you to hold decision makers accountable so you all get the education you need.

Nina Laitala, VicSRC CEO

STUDENT EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Student Executive Advisory Committee (the Executive Committee) is made up of 15 secondary school students from across Victoria. The Executive Committee play a key role in the governance of VicSRC by ensuring VicSRC is always student-led. They advise the organisation on strategic direction, implement advocacy priorities and represent Victorian students to other stakeholders in education.

Our 2020–21 Executive Committee Members

<i>Aakriti</i>	<i>Jade</i>
<i>Ahelee</i>	<i>Jess</i>
<i>Alejandro</i>	<i>Joe</i>
<i>Belle</i>	<i>Linh</i>
<i>Caelen</i>	<i>Jayla</i>
<i>Claire</i>	<i>Tehnan</i>
<i>Francesca</i>	<i>Sienna</i>
<i>Grace</i>	



Group photo of the 20-2021 Student Executive Advisory Committee. From right to left, top line: Jayla, Tehnan, Frankie, Grace, Claire, Jess, Joe. Bottom line: Belle, Aakriti, Linh, Jade, Ahelee, Caylen, Alejandro

The past twelve months have been a whirlwind of activity for the Student Executive Advisory Committee 2020-2021. Our twelve month term has seen us thrown in and out of lockdown, needing to use an adaptability that can be traced all the way back to our induction in October of 2020, shortly following the massive success of the first virtual VicSRC Congress. The new advocacy priorities that came out of this event have been at the forefront of our efforts to amplify the voices of Victorian students across the following year.

For the first time, we broke out into different subcommittees that allowed us to direct our focus more efficiently and across a wider range of areas. These worked on advocacy, engagements, events, communications and media, and decision making and forward planning. Each subcommittee has achieved a great deal over the past year, giving their attention to many facets of the organisation and the state of Victorian education.

The advocacy subcommittee has seen the establishment of the very first Primary School Advisory Group, solidifying VicSRC's connection and relationship with the younger student stakeholders in education. This subcommittee also led a webinar with panelists from Family Planning Victoria, DET and Parents Victoria talking to students about the consent education movement sweeping across the nation and what good sex education really looks like.

Committee members have also partaken in countless engagements with stakeholders and public figures, such as the Minister for Education and Department of Education and Training Deputy Secretaries, passionately advocating for the interests of Victorian students and pushing for change in the education system. We have also dedicated ourselves to advocacy through the media, participating in news segments and writing published articles that continue to amplify student voice.

Throughout the past twelve months, we have worked tirelessly in the student voice effort, and we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation towards the staff and Board, without whom there would be no VicSRC. The experiences we have had over the past year continue to allow us to develop as advocates and empower every student.

VICSRC AT A GLANCE

In 2020-21 we have...

had



83

meetings with
education
stakeholders

published



29

pieces on the
Student Voice Hub

posted



1802

times across Instagram, Twitter
and Facebook

included the voices of



250

students in our *Learning from remote
learning: round two* report

had



3

meetings with
the Minister for
Education

directly engaged with



276

schools

appeared or been
quoted in



23

state-wide media
pieces across
print, online, tv
and radio

reached



1168

students through our Student Community

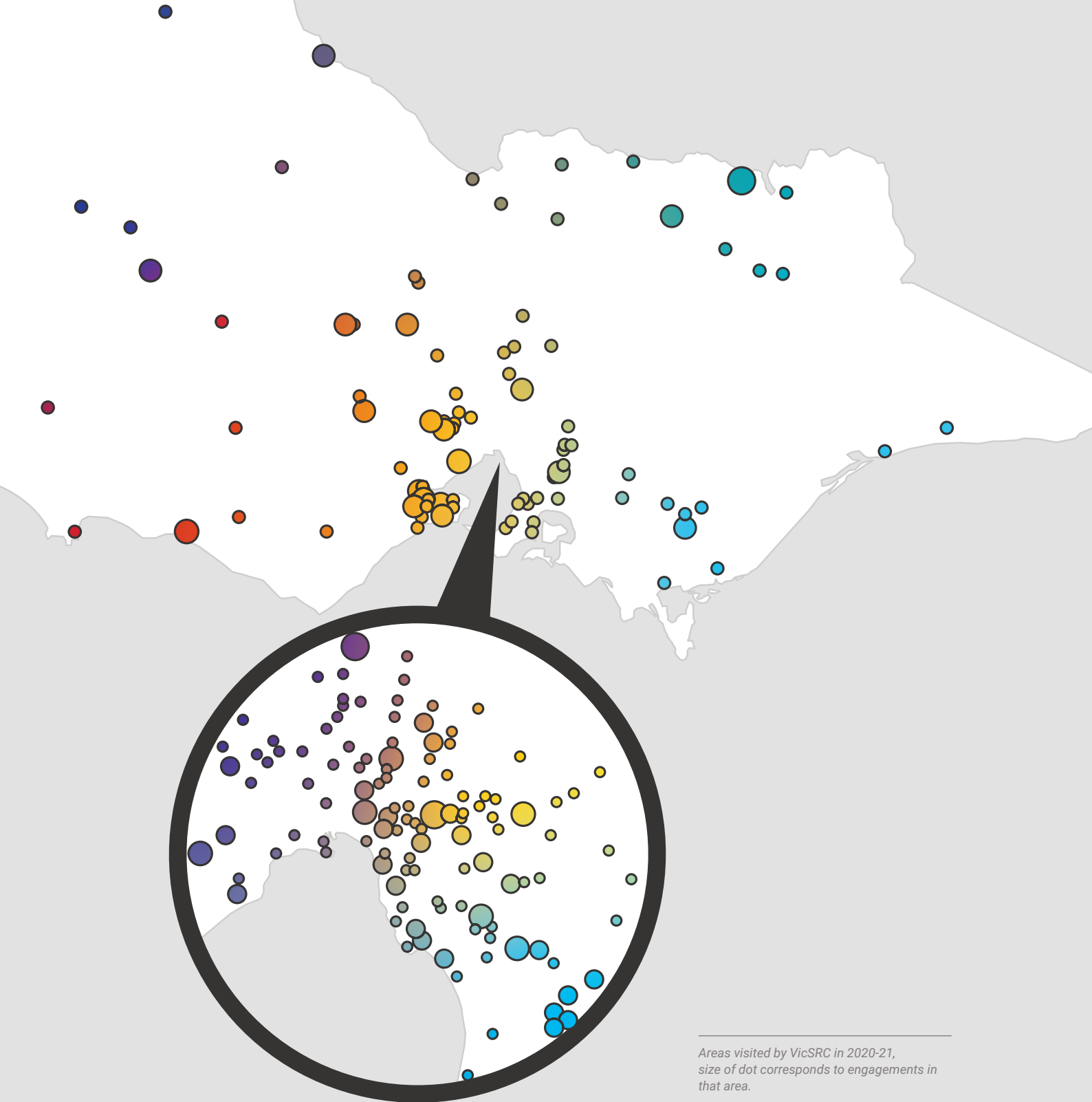
delivered student voice training to



396

students

VICSRC AROUND VICTORIA



*Areas visited by VicSRC in 2020-21,
size of dot corresponds to engagements in
that area.*



Congress is VicSRC's flagship student-led experience which brings together secondary students from across Victoria to design solutions to the top issues in the education system, as voted by students. These issues and solutions become VicSRC's advocacy platform for the next 12 months, spearheaded by the VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee.

The fifteenth year of VicSRC Congress was unique; an online experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 4 days in the September 2020 school holidays, delegates came together on Zoom and in an online course to work together on issues that had been intensified by a year full of remote learning.



*VicSRC Congress 2020 Coordinator
and Student Executive Advisory
committee member Bri*

How we adapted Congress

Congress has had a special place in my heart ever since my first experience at Congress 2015 as a year 7 student. I was beyond excited when I was elected Congress Coordinator in late 2019, and I was determined to make the event as special for others as it is for me. However, like many things this year, it did not go as planned.

We spent many weeks without knowing when, how or even if the event would be moving forward. When we reached the decision to hold the event online, this also meant we had to delay it in order to completely re-plan. There was a lot of concern about attendance from students in older years, who would be well into exam preparation by this point, which is a sentiment I completely understood as a year 12 student.

Planning for an event we'd never tried before was a challenge and felt like a massive risk. As people were joining from home, we had no idea if delegates would engage with the program over the four days. Additionally, with the rapid development of new programs and resources, we had nothing to base our event on. However, these setbacks allowed us to examine the fundamentals of Congress and reimagine the event in a way that was adaptable, while still keeping the representation and facilitation of student-driven issues and actions at its core.

Despite a year of uncertainty and change, Congress 2020 has been a huge success. We were blown away by the passion, positivity and enthusiasm exhibited by over 100 delegates at Congress this year. Even joining from home, the delegates were able to adapt to the format of the event and deliver some incredible plans by the fourth day. I commend them all for their incredible work.

Overall, it's been fantastic working as the Executive Committee Congress Coordinator, and I'm confident that both Congress and VicSRC will continue to adapt to the ever-changing world, while still advocating for student driven change in education.

—Bri, 2020 Congress Coordinator

Twilight Session

The Congress 2020 Twilight Session brought together almost 100 education stakeholders to hear about the work done by students at Congress, replacing the historical Open Morning event.

The 2020 - 2021 VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee reported on what VicSRC had done in the past year. The Action Plans from Congress were presented, and stakeholders had the opportunity to ask the Student Executive Advisory Committee questions about them.

Issues identified for urgent action in 2020



A graphic illustration of priorities and ideas to come out of Congress 2020 drawn by Sarah the Firth.

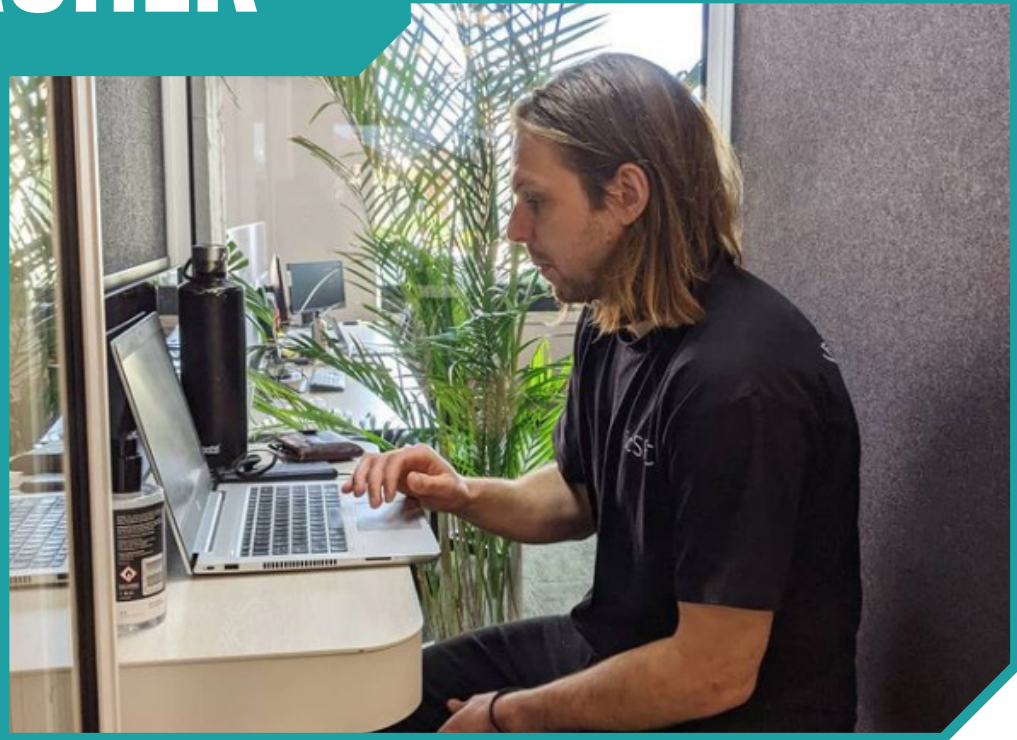
Student Perspectives Panel

As part of Congress 2020, VicSRC hosted a live online student panel facilitated by our Student Executive Advisory Committee member Tafara. The panel was designed to provide a platform to elevate the experiences of students that aren't always heard at school or within the system including students with disabilities, gender diverse students, students in rural locations and students in out of home care.



You can watch the Student Perspectives Panel 2020 [here](#).

TEACH THE TEACHER



Designed by students and delivered by VicSRC, the Teach the Teacher program is a whole school student-led framework to encourage and enable student voice, agency and participation. An internationally recognised education innovation, Teach the Teacher aims to create an inclusive school culture where everyone's voices are equally heard. Teach the Teacher supports students to drive change at school by leading collaborative conversations with teachers, school leadership and staff.

*Programs & Events
Coordinator Tom virtually
facilitating a Teach the
Teacher workshop from
inside a booth at Our
Community House.*

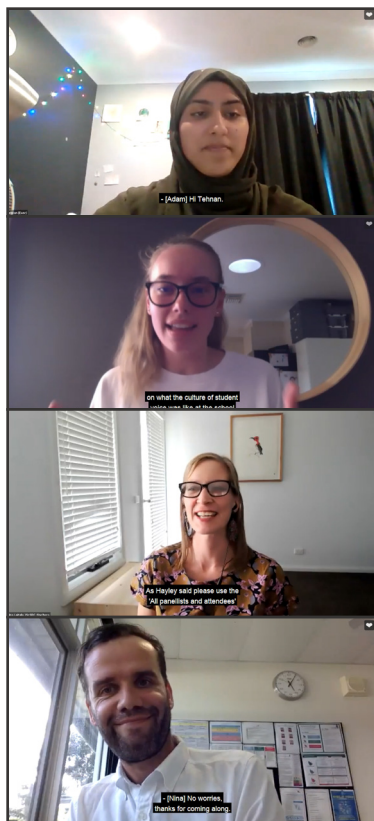


VicSRC TEACH THE TEACHER

Student Report: University High School Teach the Teacher

Topic	Mental health and absenteeism
Goal	To present an informational presentation to the teaching body, in order for them to consider the issue while planning classes.
The team	6 year 10 students and a support teacher
Timeline	<p>Term 1 - planning and getting the approval from school council</p> <p>Term 2 - more planning and refining our issue</p> <p>Term 3 - consultation</p> <p>Term 4 – professional development session, debrief and reporting back to the school community</p>
What happened?	<p>We consulted with the school body via a survey and determined that the school had a lack of regard in relation to absenteeism. We ran a quiz and group discussions via Zoom with the school staff. The principal and our teacher helped us out, and the vast majority (if not all) of the teaching body attended.</p> <p>After the session, we were congratulated by our teachers, who considered it a great success. Some quotes from teachers include “amazing PD session”, “it was one of my favourite staff meetings ever” and “you did a brilliant job.”</p> <p>Our next step is to talk to the teachers about how they’ve been working to follow up on the issue next year.</p>
Challenges	We faced a lot of deadline issues, which we worked together to sort out. We also had some issues with refining our goal, as mental health is too broad, and eventually based off of our own interests and the needs of the school we focused on absenteeism
Advice for other students and schools	Teach the Teacher was a revolutionary experience for me in regards to student activism, so much so that it has motivated me to join my school’s SRC and participate in other forms of community work. It won’t all be fun and games, but it’s well worth it all the same.

Teach the Teacher webinars



Screenshot of Zoom meeting. Top to bottom: VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee members Tehnan and Jess; Eltham Primary School Assistant Principal Adam Dunemann; VicSRC CEO Nina Laitala.

While VicSRC was delivering Teach the Teacher virtually throughout 2020 and 2021 this didn't make it easy for all schools to attend, particularly as they moved in and out of remote and face-to-face learning. To combat this the Programs & Events team started searching for a way to give schools the opportunity to engage in the principles of Teach the Teacher, even if implementing the program itself was out of reach.

Funded by DET, VicSRC hosted four Teach the Teacher webinars that covered the key elements of student voice, agency and participation. The webinars also provided examples and case studies from schools who had done the program, key to understanding the factors that enable a school to create a culture that empowers and celebrates students in decision making.

Each webinar included students and teachers talking about different areas, including

- Student voice fundamentals featuring VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee member Sienna
- Student-teacher partnerships featuring VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee member Belle and Edison Ponari, who co-created the original program as a student
- Students as researchers featuring VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee members Tehnan and Belle
- Strategising with case studies featuring VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee members Tehnan and Jess, Eltham Primary School Assistant Principal Adam Dunemann, and former Bendigo Senior Secondary College student Tafara Mhindurwa



You can view the webinars online now:

- [Strategising with Case Studies](#)
- [Students as Researchers](#)
- [Student-Teacher Partnerships](#)
- [Student Voice Fundamentals](#)

ADVOCACY UPDATE

VicSRC's advocacy led to some major education policy changes over 2020 and 2021 based on priorities identified by students from across Victoria during Congress 2020.

Consent education



National Education

'It's not a joke, it never will be': More schools named in push for better consent education

A petition and hundreds of new testimonies about sexual assault have forced principals to address their school communities and commit to doing more.

A news story published in The Age about the experiences of Executive Committee member Sienna.

At Congress 2020, students identified inadequate sex ed in schools as a priority issue for VicSRC. They felt their education lacked inclusivity and failed to impart a clear understanding of rights and responsibilities – particularly around consent. VicSRC brought the issue up with Victoria's Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino in November 2020 and while he advised VicSRC that schools make the decisions on how the curriculum is taught, he agreed with our recommendation about more accountability needed and said he'd consider our points.

As the conversation spread nationally VicSRC Executive Committee member Sienna spoke to The Age about her experiences and appeared on the radio.

In March 2021, Victoria's Minister for Education announced changes to the sexuality education policy to ensure that consent was taught in all Victorian government schools. After the Minister's announcement, VicSRC provided advice to schools around how to teach consent in an inclusive, accessible and engaging way with a free webinar on consent education for teachers and through appearances on Channel 9 and Channel 10 news.



Graphic illustration of the ideas around improving mental health in schools from Congress 2020.

Mental health

Mental health among students was a key issue raised at Congress 2020, particularly in the midst of the 2020 lockdowns.

In November 2020 VicSRC recommended youth mental health first aid training be provided to all schools in Victoria and the Minister promised to consider this. VicSRC's 2020 *Returning to remote learning* report highlighted the decline in students' mental health and urged schools and the system to ensure mental health and wellbeing was the number one priority during the return to face-to-face learning. VicSRC kept this messaging strong through talks with government and education decision makers and began to see it reflected in wider DET communications.

The Mental Health Royal Commission report was tabled in February 2021 and VicSRC was brought in on multiple meetings with DET decision makers to provide advice on the recommendations. A major mental health reform was announced at the 2021 Victorian State Budget where serious funding was announced for mental health in schools. Some of the areas to receive funding included ones raised by students through VicSRC, including therapy dogs in schools and youth mental health first aid training. VicSRC was invited to join the DET Mental Health in Schools Reference Group to provide ongoing advice as the reform is implemented.



Graphic illustration of the ideas around making senior secondary more fair from Congress 2020.

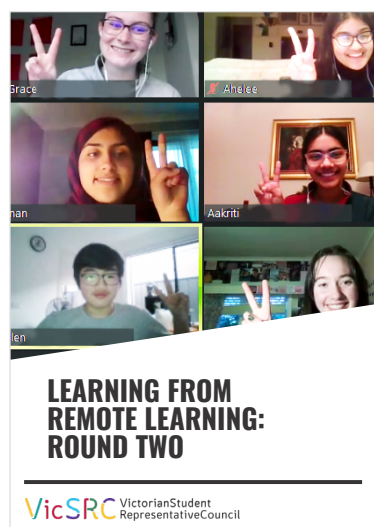
Senior Secondary Reform

Students have repeatedly raised concerns at Congress about the stigma surround VCAL. At Congress 2020 a number of the issues identified the inadequacies of the current senior secondary certificate, from the extreme pressure students experience around doing well academically and achieving a high ATAR to disengaging from school because learning isn't enjoyable.

The release of the John Firth review into Vocational Education at the end of 2020 captured VicSRC's perspective, drawn from 15 years of students raising issues at Congress, as well as the perspectives of other students, teachers, parents and industries across Victoria.

VicSRC's ongoing advocacy to make changes to VCE and VCAL directly influenced the recommendations in the Firth review, in particular the creation of a new integrated senior secondary certificate, and in 2021 VicSRC was invited to join the DET Senior Secondary Reform reference group to advise on the design and implementation of this certificate.

Remote learning advocacy



The cover of the VicSRC Learning from remote learning: round two report

In early July 2020, schools in Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire returned to remote and online learning for the second time. Drawing on the findings of VicSRC's [Learning from remote learning report](#) earlier that year, VicSRC published [Returning to remote learning: recommendations and advice direct from students](#). This report focused on how schools and the education sector could best support students and improve their remote learning experience. The recommendations were based on the survey of over 500 Victorian school students and their experiences of remote learning during the first part of 2020.

Recommendations included:

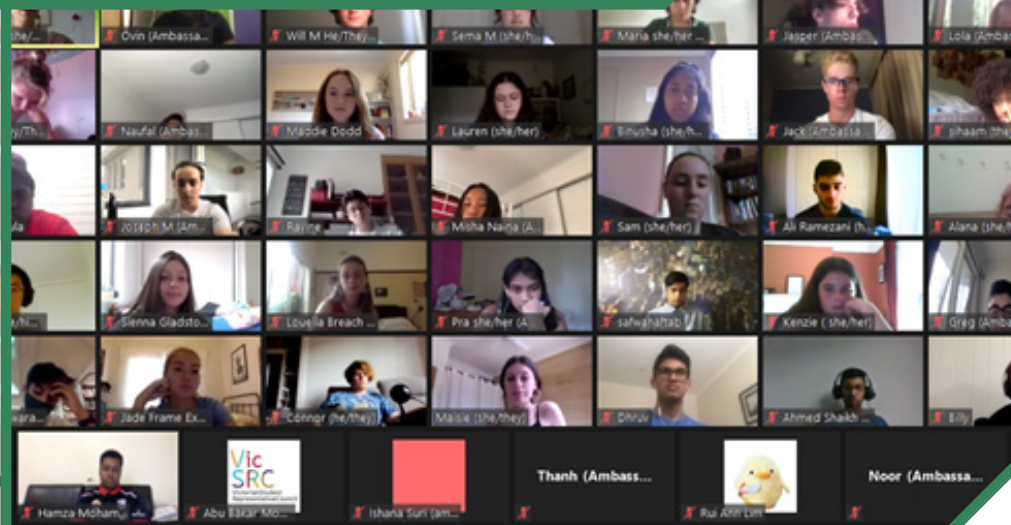
1. All students are provided easily accessible access to mental health support.
2. Schools should ensure the wellbeing of students, staff, leadership and families is the number one priority over workload and academic outcomes.
3. Students must have agency over their data, bodies and learning environments during remote learning.
4. Schools should prioritise student voice and agency during remote learning to ensure students remain empowered and motivated in their learning.
5. VicSRC recommends the DET and Victorian government prioritise education focused communications via appropriate platforms direct to students in a clear, accessible and timely way.
6. Teachers and school leadership are understanding of the technology challenges faced by students and guarantee that no disciplinary measures will be taken in response to problems with internet and devices.

Then, in October 2020 students began returning to face-to-face learning. VicSRC surveyed 250 students about their experiences of the second block of remote and online learning and published the findings in the [Learning from remote learning: round 2 report](#).

Students were asked to look at VicSRC's recommendations for schools above and to say whether their experience was better, worse, or stayed the same for the second round of remote learning. It was encouraging to see that some students reported positive changes in these areas but most felt that little to nothing had changed.

Throughout the upheaval of the pandemic VicSRC was a source of up to date information for students about changes to learning including term dates, exam dates, access to technology, and directives to begin or end remote learning. VicSRC has continually advocated to DET about the importance of clear, direct communication to students about changes to their education. This work has continued into the 2021-22 financial year.

AMBASSADORS PROGRAM



VicSRC Ambassadors take part in an online meeting.

VicSRC Ambassadors are secondary school students from all over Victoria who come together to create real, student-led change in their communities based on the VicSRC Congress priorities. In 2020 and 2021 the program supported approximately 50 students.

Being part of the VicSRC Ambassadors allows me to learn and collaborate in an inclusive and accepting environment

— Binusha, 2019-2021 Ambassador

Due to the disruptions of COVID-19 and the unpredictability of lockdowns all Ambassadors meetings were held online, with Ambassadors supporting each other to take student voice action in their schools and local communities and contribute to VicSRC's advocacy work. Ambassadors worked on actions aligned with the priorities from Congress 2020.

There have been challenges with running the Ambassadors program almost entirely online but Ambassadors have still been able to improve and start conversations about student voice in their schools.

Some examples of what Ambassadors have achieved at their schools this year include:

- Meeting with teachers and school leadership to improve the way remote learning is conducted
- Running a 'mulletts for mental health' initiative to raise money and awareness
- Planning to run a forum open to all students to discuss ways to improve student voice within all school systems

Ambassadors have also contributed to VicSRC's systemic advocacy by attending meetings with stakeholders and providing feedback and advice to the Executive Committee.

Ambassadors has made it so easy for me to collaborate with numerous students with the same passions as me from across Victoria. I've gotten insight into what countless other schools are doing, now taking onboard their ideas and making it happen at my own school!

— Joseph, 2021 Ambassador

Being with the VicSRC Ambassadors is helping me a lot with my teamwork, problem-solving skills and my productivity. I love how everyone here is so supportive and respectful of each other's ideas!

— Thanh, 2021 Ambassador

CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP RESOURCES

At Congress 2019, students identified a lack of education about politics and civic participation in school and as a response the Victorian government funded the creation of new resources for students, new research and a professional learning program for teachers. VicSRC was awarded the funding to create new resources and began early 2020.

At VicSRC's student-led event Congress 2019, Victorian secondary students voted Politics 101 as one of the top action priorities for VicSRC to work on. We felt that we were not learning the things we needed to know to become active and informed citizens. VicSRC formed a working group of students from across Victoria who, with the support of VicSRC staff, collaborated with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) to help solve this issue and create student-led civics and citizenship resources. These resources were created by students, for students, and focus on five topics chosen by us:

- policy
- voting
- citizenship
- media
- active civic participation

Hear from one of the students who led the development of these resources:

"We consulted with education organisations, principals, teachers and students to gather ideas and feedback. We also collaborated with professionals to create the animations and interviewed students and experts to help other students to understand these topics. We are proud of the work we have done and feel that this is an important project. We believe that young people's understanding and passion for civics and citizenship is critical to the future of our communities. We hope that these resources inspire your students to take action in their school and community."

— Rumaan Baryalai VicSRC Civics and Citizenship Student Working Group VicSRC Student Executive Advisory Committee member 2019–2020



Check out the resources [here](#)

These resources are different and special in a way because they are advocated for by students, they are planned by students, they are designed by students and delivered by students as well and I think that it makes it very special and very different that they are made completely with the student in mind and they are made by students themselves.

— Ahelee Rahman

We got to do a lot of amazing things like communicate with animators and pitch scripts.

— Tanay Solanki

When student voice is heard by the people in charge you can really make a difference.

— Rumaan Baryalai

I came to appreciate how complex the curriculum really was to develop and deliver to students. Not only was there a variety of things we wanted to teach, we also had to take into account that we had to teach it differently to different age groups.

— Tanay Solanki

There is a big discrepancy between the way that civics and citizenship is taught from school to school and even from classroom to classroom, and that's why I'm personally really optimistic about these resources because I feel that they will help in bridging that gap.

— Ahelee Rahman

We explored the curriculum and identified a few parts we thought were most important, these parts were media, voting, active participation, citizenship and policy, and we decided to focus on those parts of the curriculum and designed resources surrounding them.

— Ahelee Rahman

These resources should be motivation, should be inspiration for students.

— Rumaan Baryalai

VICSRC ONLINE LEARNING

Online learning has been a new venture for VicSRC in 2020-21 and has been met with great success. VicSRC Online Learning launched in July 2020, giving staff the capability to build online courses for internal and external use.

Internal courses include:

- Student Executive Advisory Committee induction
- Congress Action Team guide
- Ambassadors induction and Action Team planning
- Child safety training

The first publicly available course was launched in April 2021, an 'Introduction to student voice' designed for Victorian school-aged students but freely available to anyone interested. In the first four months over 100 people have enrolled, promising good things for future VicSRC courses.

HEY GRANT

In late 2020 VicSRC staff applied for a Healthy Equal Youth (HEY) Grant from YACVic, looking to deliver a project through the Student Editorial Team. The proposal included a series of blog posts, videos and artworks from LGBTIQ+ students living in rural and regional Victoria, with the goal of providing ownvoices representation for an underserved community and paid artistic work for young people in that community.

After being awarded the grant in early 2021 the VicSRC communications team and Student Editorial Team set to work, advertising the new series across social media. Four students and one group expressed interest, pitching a total of eleven pieces. The first piece, *Mirrored in me*, went up on the Student Voice Hub in June 2021 with more pieces in the works to follow it shortly.

HEY SERIES: MIRRORED IN ME



HEY series artwork 'Mirrored in me' by Sy Broom.

THANK YOUS

VicSRC's first year as an independent incorporated body did not look anything like what we expected.

Through the ups and downs of 2020-21 we have been supported by an amazing education community who have made it possible for student voice to be a huge part of navigating the challenges this year brought.

First and foremost thank you to the students of Victoria, especially the VicSRC Student Community and the VicSRC Ambassadors. Without you we truly could not exist and it is your voices, your insight and connections that power everything we do.

Another huge thank you to all the educators of Victoria who believe in student voice and make it part of their daily teaching practice, particularly the VicSRC Partner Schools who invite us along on their student voice journey.

An additional thank you to the many, many stakeholders who help us along our way. All of the other education organisations and individual stakeholders who have given us wisdom, partners or been a friendly face at a meeting we are so grateful and proud to work alongside you.

Finally an enormous thank you to our funding bodies: the Victorian Department of Education and Training; the Australian Education Union Victorian Branch; the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority; the Victorian Electoral Commission; and, the Parliament of Victoria – you make our work possible with your valuable contributions whether to our ongoing mission or a one-off project.

If you're interested in partnership opportunities with VicSRC, please get in touch at ceo@vicsrc.org.au.

Our partners



Education
and Training



**Victorian
Electoral
Commission**

FINANCIAL REPORTING

Treasurer's report

For the year ending 30 June 2021, VicSRC has reported a surplus of \$87,370. This is a very healthy position for a year that started and ended with much of Victoria in lockdown due to COVID-19. The restrictions over the past year greatly impacted VicSRC's work, but they also allowed the organisation to demonstrate its adaptability and agility.

Strong financial and risk management during its first year of independence sees VicSRC ending the 2020-21 financial year with a retained surplus of \$303,503, putting it in an excellent position to focus on growth areas without undertaking unnecessary financial risk over the coming years.

Although VicSRC lost some expected income due to schools undertaking remote learning for a significant part of the year, it gained higher than expected income from workshops once face to face learning resumed. VicSRC also increased its engagement with students through easy-to-understand communications that provided essential COVID-19 and school related information through its website and social media. While this did not directly impact the financial position of VicSRC, it is expected that increased engagement will lead to increased attendance at events and opportunities to deliver programs in schools which will positively impact future income.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021
	\$
Revenue	824,537
Employee Benefits Expense	565,328
Accommodation Expenses	25,588
Administrative Expenses	25,291
Communication Expenses	108,469
Depreciation Expense	4,020
Project Costs	6,802
Other expenses	1,669
Current year Surplus before income tax	87,370
Income tax expense	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	87,370
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity	87,370

FINANCIAL REPORTING

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021

	2021
	\$
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	551,844
Accounts Receivable	3,960
Other Current Assets	3,714
Total Current Assets	559,518
Non-Current Assets	
Plant and Equipment	6,317
Total Non-Current Assets	6,317
Total Assets	565,835
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable and Other Payables	34,171
Contract Liability - Grants received in advance	174,071
Provision for Annual Leave	32,887
Total Current Liabilities	241,129
Non-Current Liabilities	
Provision for Long Service Leave	21,203
Total Non- Current Liabilities	21,203
Total Liabilities	262,332
Net Assets	303,503
Equity	
Retained surplus	303,503
Total Equity	303,503

VicSRC Victorian Student
Representative Council

ABN 49 638 020 354