

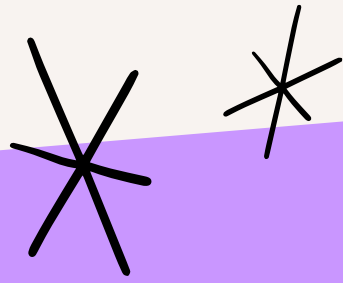


Blue Light Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

**A Year of Diversification
and Renewal**





Acknowledgement of Country

Blue Light Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia where we gather, live, work and stand. We acknowledge all Traditional Custodians, their Elders past and present, and we pay our respects to their continuing connection to their culture, community, land, sea, water and skies. We extend this respect to all First Nations young people and acknowledge the importance of First Nations young people having a strong connection to their culture and Country.

Valuing Diversity

Blue Light Victoria has a conscious commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and view these elements as essential to fulfilling our vision and mission.

In keeping with our core values of connection, growth, innovation, and respect, Blue Light Victoria continues to listen to, learn from and embrace the differences and perspectives of young people, partners and communities that we work with.



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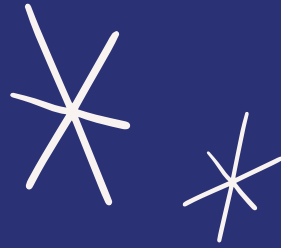
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Our Reach



 **14,898**
young people

617 
police & emergency
services partners

 **126**
In-school
programs  **48%**
increase

**when compared to FY2023*

19 
Branches

 **79%**
programs
& activities
delivered in regional Victoria

158 
Branch
activities

229 
community
volunteers

Our Impact




65%
increase
in young people participating
in our school-based programs

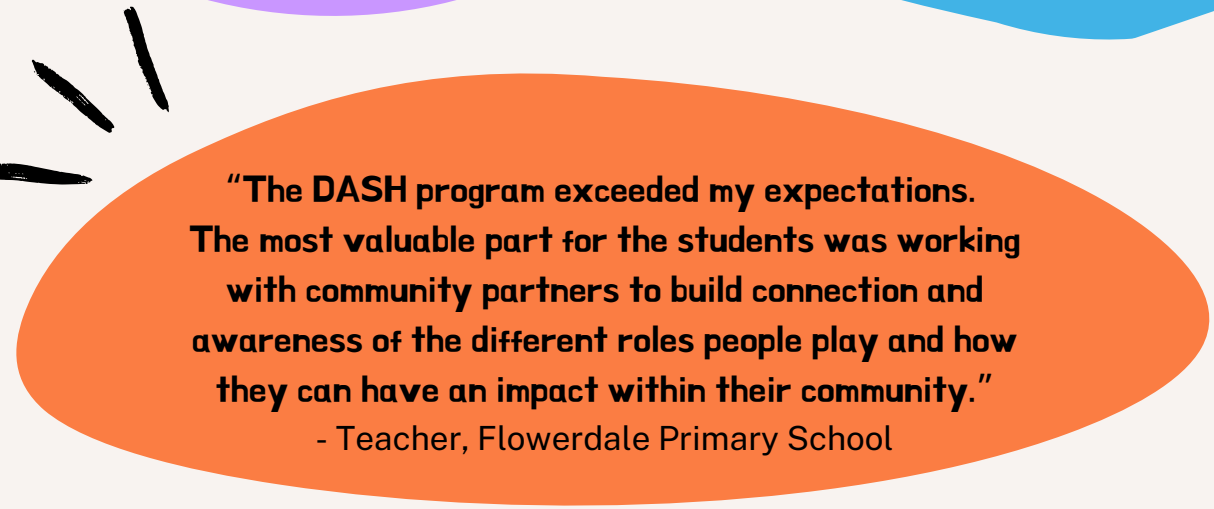
**when compared to FY2023*

"I would like to thank the school and the program for taking some of the stress away from starting high school. It gave [our son] a safe environment to speak freely about his feelings that he might not have felt he could have talked about with his parents"
- Parent, Blue EDGE

"Have the DASH program in every school's curriculum!"
- Community Partner,
City of Melbourne



"I gained confidence and learnt about my mental health and how to take care of myself"
- Student, Blue EDGE



"The DASH program exceeded my expectations. The most valuable part for the students was working with community partners to build connection and awareness of the different roles people play and how they can have an impact within their community."
- Teacher, Flowerdale Primary School

"A great initiative. My child has taken up healthier habits (eating more regularly, exercising for fun, less electronics), he has also grown his leadership skills and self-esteem. Thank you!"
- Parent, Kurunjang Secondary College,
Blue EDGE

Words from our Chair & CEO

Michelle Arundel, Chair & Elissa Scott, CEO

We are delighted to present to you our Annual Report for the Financial Year 2024, a year highlighted by diversification and renewal, as we continue to inspire, engage and equip young people to be their best self.

This year over 14,000 young people across Victoria benefited from a Blue Light Victoria program or initiative – a 14% increase from 2023. We also saw a 37% increase in police and emergency services members participating in our programs. As we look back on the past year, we are deeply thankful for the ongoing support of our branches, police, emergency services and community partners, our donors and supporters who have been instrumental in helping us in our work with young people, positively impacting local communities. We also say thank you to the thousands of young people who have made a choice to partner with us and become involved in programs and initiatives that are positive, fulfilling and life changing. Together we have made a difference!

Our programs, Blue EDGE and DASH, have consistently delivered a strong, lasting impact, earning outstanding feedback from young people, schools, and community partners. This year, we launched our fee-for-service model for Blue EDGE, successfully running 48 programs throughout the financial year. Feedback remains overwhelmingly favorable, with **96% of students reporting they enjoyed participating in team activities and improving their personal fitness.**

We were successful in securing four community grants for our DASH program, enabling us to deliver the program to more regions across the state. A huge thank you to Wyndham City Council, City of Melbourne, East Gippsland Community Foundation and Hobsons Bay Community Fund for their support. We also finalised the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant in Western Victoria and the Kinglake Community grant.



St Mary McKillop Primary School, DASH

As always, the impact DASH and the community projects implemented is having in local communities is immense. From fundraising and awareness days for our emergency services, to mental health care packs and community wellbeing events – the power of listening to and executing young people’s voice is second to none. To find out more about our programs, head to page 14.

Our Blue Light branches have again been busy this year delivering activities ranging from 1:1 mentoring, skate days, fitness programs and discos. **This year has seen an increase in attendance at our disco’s, particularly amongst groups of younger people.** We are very grateful to our branch volunteers who are dedicated and committed to engaging with young people in their local communities, giving many hours of their time to deliver these events and activities. A huge thank you goes to each of them for all they bring to Blue Light. To read more, head to page 20.

April 2024 saw the launch of our new website, refreshed logo and brand. This is a positive step forward in the life of Blue Light boosting our presence within the charity sector and supporting our new strategic direction for 2024 – 2027.

In June we launched our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, a road map for where and how we will focus our efforts over the next three years. **We have identified three Strategic Pillars, Impact, Influence & Sustainability,** which will guide our efforts as we work towards achieving long-term outcomes. You can read more on page 11.

Blue Light International Youth Conference

In October 2023, Michelle and Elissa attended the Blue Light International Youth Conference in New Zealand, with over 150 delegates from Blue Light teams across Australia, Fiji and New Zealand. By continuing to share our learnings and collaborate, we are able to continue our work with young people and deliver positive outcomes from them and their communities. It’s wonderful to see the tremendous legacy and impact that Blue Light Victoria has had and continues to have, nearly 50 years on. Special thanks to New Zealand Blue Light for their hosting.



We thank the Board of Directors and Sub-Committee members for their tireless work, support and guidance over the past 12 months. This year we bid farewell to three board members, Debra Robertson APM and Kevin Scott both who have been integral to Blue Light for a number of years and Geeta Kulkarni who took on the position of Treasurer whilst Caitlin Mathews undertook a period of parental leave. Thank you for your contributions, we are so grateful to have had your valuable leadership, insights and support.

To our **dedicated and hardworking staff, thank you for your work this year.** Your ability to adapt, innovate and collaborate is what makes Blue Light continue to prosper. We look forward to continuing our work together and increasing our impact across the state.

Thank you to our donors and supporters. It's because of you that we've been able to provide vital opportunities for youth development, build strong community connections, and equip young people with the skills and confidence they need to thrive. Whether through financial support, in-kind donations, or volunteering, your dedication has been instrumental in helping us deliver impactful programs throughout the year.

Blue Light Victoria is committed to inspiring young people to make positive changes in their lives, creating opportunities and environments that support their development, wellbeing and future successes. By ensuring they have the resources, guidance and support necessary, we empower young people to thrive and reach their full potential, whilst fostering a strong connection to their community.

We look forward to continuing our work into the future and thank you for being a part of our journey.



Michelle Arundel, Chair



Elissa Scott, CEO

Our Board of Directors



Michelle Arundel
Chair



Sussan Thomas
Deputy Chair



Caitlin Mathews
Treasurer



Lisa Hardeman
Secretary



Kelly Jensen
Board Member



Ian Lanyon
Board Member



Peter Leigh
Board Member



Lucy Powell
Board Member



Slavka Scott
Board Member



**Debra Robertson,
APM**
Board Member
(resigned Dec 2023)



Kevin Scott
Board Member
(resigned Dec 2023)



Geeta Kulkarni
Treasurer
(resigned March 2024)

Sub-Committee Members

Governance, Risk & Finance

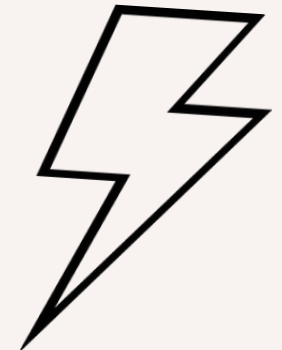
Superintendent Sussan Thomas
Adrian Berardi
Bronwyn Brownlee
Peter Leigh
Geeta Kulkarni

People, Capacity, Capability, Culture

Jess Anderson
Jo Begbie
David Picking
Lisa Hardeman

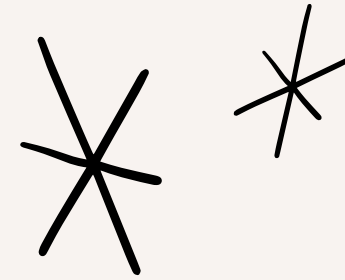
Marketing & Fundraising

Slavka Scott
Kelly Jensen
Lucy Powell



Words from our Patron

Chief Commissioner Shane Patton, APM



As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of the achievements of Blue Light Victoria.

From school-based programs to branch events, **14,906 young people were reached this year**, a fantastic **14% increase on last year**. This is a testament to the hardworking and committed team including the Board, staff, and volunteers. Your dedication and tireless efforts have made a significant impact with young people and local communities.

Programs such as Blue EDGE and DASH have gone from strength to strength. With federal government funding assisting increased delivery of these programs, together with an innovative fee for service model being developed, **more young people from rural, regional and metropolitan communities have been able to benefit from these programs**. Together with police member participation, these programs also provide an opportunity for young people to engage with emergency services members, creating a unique opportunity for learning.

I am also pleased to see an incredible **48.5% increase of Victoria Police members supporting Blue Light initiatives**, which aligns with the Victoria Police Schools Engagement Model and Neighbourhood policing. We are committed to delivering purposeful and positive engagement between police and schools and the support from Blue Light Victoria is crucial. I know from our nearly **600 members involved**, the work they do with Blue Light also has positive impacts on their own mental health and wellbeing.



Traralgon College, Blue EDGE



Hastings Blue Light Disco

Across Blue Light's **19 branches this year, discos have still proved popular with 52 discos being held.** Discos, together with a wide array of other positive engagement activities run by the branches create important connections throughout the community and I express my thanks to the dedicated police members and community volunteers who work tirelessly to support young people in this way.

This year has seen the refreshment of the Blue Light logo, brand and website. This work is an important step as they look toward the future and reach a new generation of Victorians. I am excited about what's to come and confident in Blue Light's ability to continue to make a difference within the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to **congratulate three Victoria Police members on receiving Life Membership** – veteran Commander Debra Robertson APM, veteran Sergeant Leanne Bright and current serving member, Sergeant Joanne Parissis. Your commitment to young people and the work Blue Light does is commendable; congratulations and thank you for your hard work and dedication. You can read their stories on page 25.

It has been a busy year for the Blue Light team, and I wish them every success for the 2024-2025 year.



Shane Patton APM, Patron

Our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan

Our Vision

Inspire, Engage and Equip Young People to be their best self.

Our Mission

To design, develop and deliver programs, activities, and initiatives for young people between the ages of 10-21 years that:

- Enhance connection and positive engagement with their peers and their community.
- Equip young people with tools to support their mental and physical wellbeing.
- Strengthen relationships between young people and key Blue Light Victoria partners including Victoria Police, emergency services and other key stakeholders.



Weeroona College Bendigo, Blue EDGE

This year saw us launch a new three year strategic plan: 2024 - 2027. We identified core priorities, assessed the current landscape and set actionable steps toward our future.



PILLAR 1

Impact

We are committed to implementing meaningful impact measurement strategies, fostering a culture of learning and establishing feedback loops for continuous improvement.

OUTCOMES

- A clear and embedded youth voice drives our strategy, programs and activities.
- We have an adaptable and extended model of programs available.
- We can clearly demonstrate the value of early intervention and prevention approaches for young people.

PILLAR 2

Influence

Using our skills and expertise developed over many years we will position ourselves as trusted leaders who are able to generate new insights and champion best practices for work with young people.

OUTCOMES

- There is greater awareness, trust and understanding of our brand.
- Strong partnerships contribute to positive outcomes for young people across all our programs.
- We are recognised and respected as a valued voice on issues impacting young people.

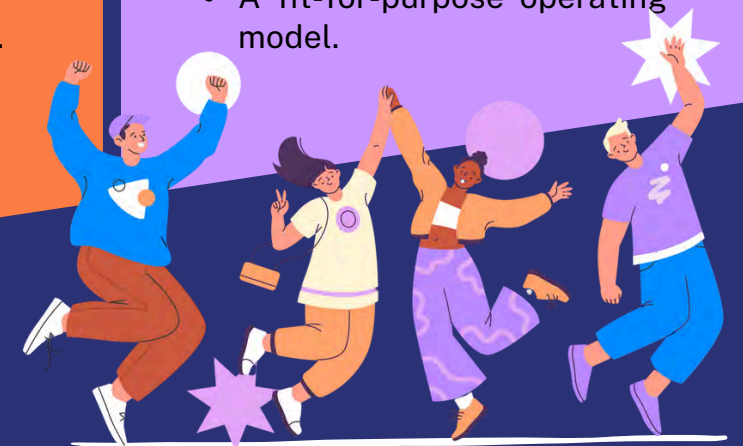
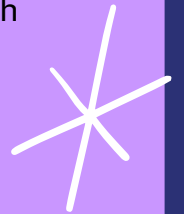
PILLAR 3

Sustainable

We will continue to build an organisation that proactively cultivates effective, safe, scalable, and innovative growth together with long-term financial security.

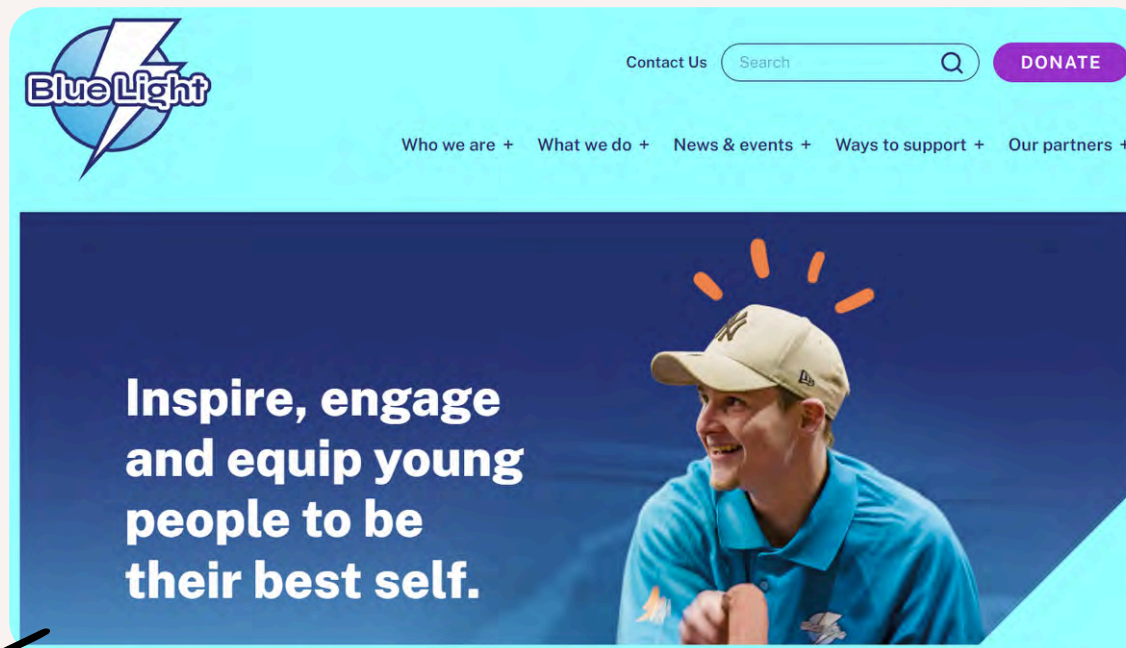
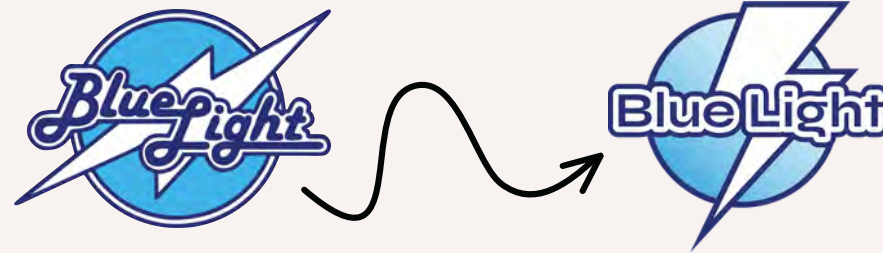
OUTCOMES

- A sustainable financial model reflective of diverse funding sources.
- A 'fit-for-purpose' operating model.



Our Refreshed Look

As part of our strategic planning process we launched a refreshed website, logo and branding. Whilst still retaining our iconic lightning bolt, our logo and website now have a new look and feel strengthening our identity and enhancing our visibility.



Our Programs

This year we saw a **65% increase in Blue Light program participants** across both our DASH (primary) and Blue EDGE (secondary) programs. This incredible growth highlights the need for our programs and just how important they are for building physical, mental and social well-being in young people across Victoria.



Altona North Primary School, DASH

DASH

This year we have delivered DASH to **78 year 5-6 classrooms across our state, a 73% increase from FY2023**. Expanding the number of students who have been able to participate in this program has been a real highlight of our year. We are grateful for funding from both the Federal government and foundations enabling this program to reach many parts of the state.

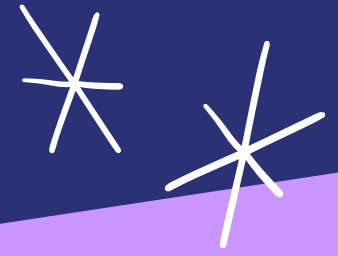
A core component of DASH is the development and delivery of a community project that addresses a local community issue. Throughout the programs we have been inspired by how young people see their community and problem solve ways to work through local need. We saw some amazing projects delivered by young people covering issues such as mental health, social issues, impact on the environment, and animal care. DASH students are given a voice in their community through these projects and develop a real sense of pride when they see the impact, creating a foundation for life long positive and active participation with their communities.

DASH engages police and emergency services members and other community organisations as part of the program. This is a highlight for students as they connect with positive community role models and learn from their experiences. It's also a highlight for members who love interacting with young people in such a rewarding way.

"It was great to learn from the students and realise the potential and the talents they have and the contribution they can make for their future communities and the society as a whole."

– Community Partner, DEECA (Term 4, 2023)

At the completion of each DASH program, one group of students is able to implement their idea for change within their community. It's a fantastic way for young people to use their voice and make real change on an issue they are passionate about. Some highlights from the year include:



Bushfire Readiness & Activity Bag

St Mary MacKillop PS -
Bannockburn

This group wanted to create a pack that would help young people who have been displaced from their home with little to no warning, helping them through times of stress and uncertainty. Containing games, activities and some home comforts, the packs were given to the Golden Plains Council Emergency Management Team to be used at their evacuation points.



Community Mural

Strathfieldsaye Primary School

The student's wanted to raise awareness of the local services in the community, fostering a sense of pride and community spirit. The mural includes to a donation link, enabling community members to donate to the local CFA.



Respectanator Day

St Arnaud Primary School

With the aim to spread kindness and build a stronger more resilient town, this group developed 'Respectanator Day', where everyone was encouraged to give 5 compliments to people, throughout the day.

They also visited the St Arnaud Community Kitchen where they shared their project and message and sold cookies and smoothies at the college. All money raised went towards the Pomonal Bushfire Relief.



BLUE EDGE

Blue EDGE has again continued to show positive outcomes for young people, increasing their physical and mental well-being and developing connections to police. **Students in Years 7-9 participated in 48 programs**, engaging in fitness activities, sharing healthy food and building skills and knowledge. The program has re-engaged young people in school, with peers and with positive community supports all of which are protective factors to help ensure that young people can reach their full potential. We have also loved seeing some of the program participants go on to be school leaders and mentors in subsequent programs.



Kurunjang Secondary College

2024 has seen the growth of our program delivery of Blue EDGE under the Schools Mental Health Fund with ongoing program review in place to ensure an evidence based, dynamic and holistic model of delivery that leads to positive outcomes.

84% of students surveyed reported improved knowledge and understanding of mental health

Both DASH and Blue EDGE are led by our specialist facilitators and dedicated programs team. They have a huge passion for young people and seeing them thrive. Without their expertise and hard work these programs would not be the success that they are.

Victoria Police and emergency services members have been valuable contributors to the experience and engagement of the students we have worked with over the year. So many young people have had the opportunity to connect and build positive relationships, having a transformative impact.



Spotlight- Blue EDGE Castlemaine

Semester 1, 2024 saw the second Blue EDGE program run at Castlemaine Secondary College. The program has been a resounding success, with every student saying they would recommend Blue EDGE, in the post-program survey. The students said they felt safe, respected and heard. Their fitness had improved; they developed new friendships and enjoyed being part of a group.

There have been numerous individual success stories to come out of the program, including one student whose family has had significant negative interactions with police in the past, ended up creating a strong connection with one police officer who also reported positive interactions with him at the local footy matches on the weekend.

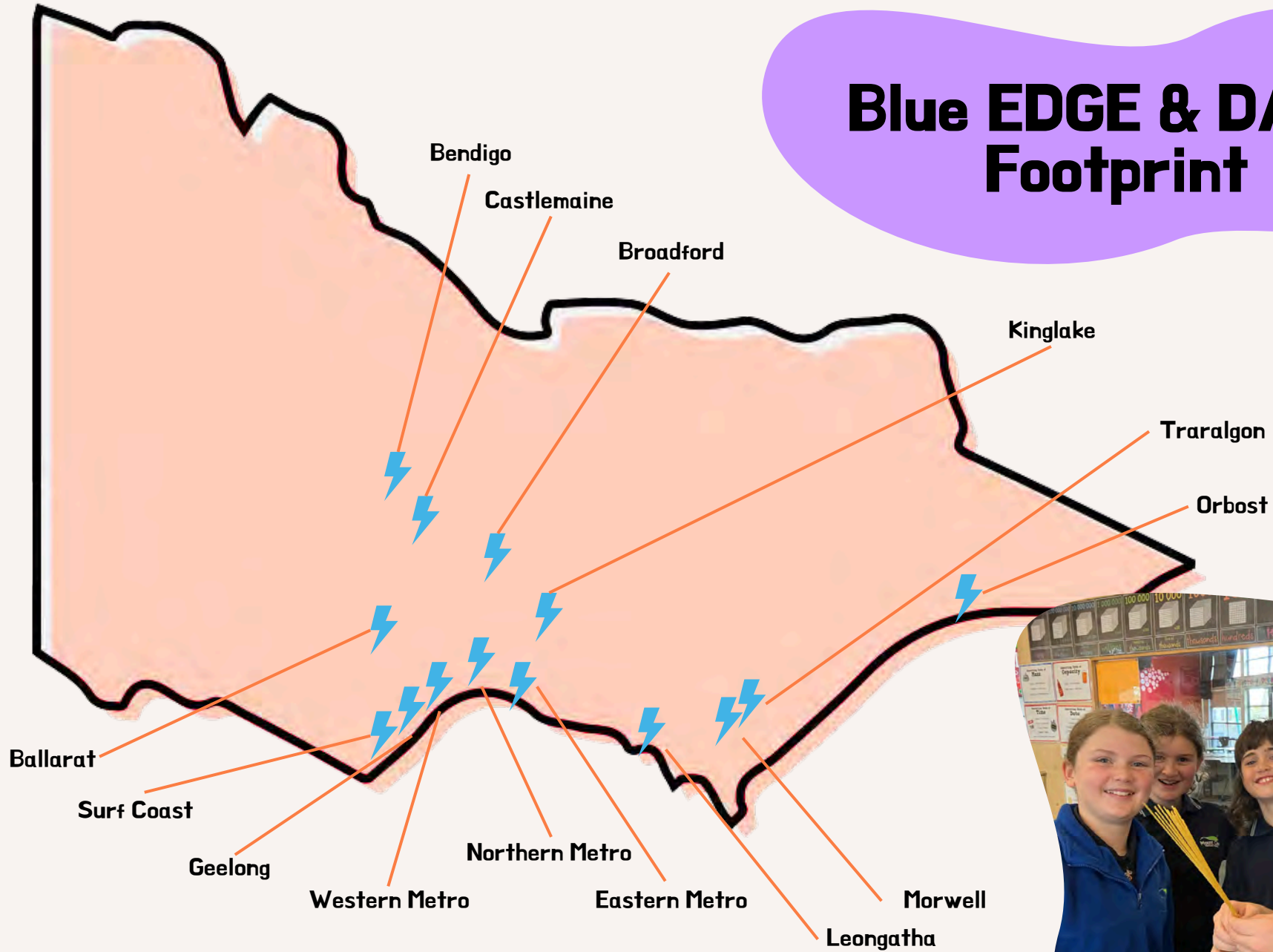
As the success of Blue EDGE filters through Castlemaine Secondary College, it's clear it is having a lasting impact and transforming not only individuals but also strengthening the community as a whole.



"My son has improved so much and learnt a lot about healthy habits that he put in place for himself. Was also pleased when we were in Castlemaine out of hours and my son spotted one of the police officers in a police vehicle. He was excited to see the officer and yelled out a big hello. What a fantastic program to achieve that from a 13-14 year old boy who used to think he was too cool for everyone!!" - Parent, Castlemaine



Blue EDGE & DASH Footprint



Programs Impact



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

This year saw the completion of our independent evaluations for Blue EDGE and DASH. Both reports were completed by the Assessment and Evaluation Research Centre (AERC), situated within the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne.

Blue EDGE

The final report for Blue EDGE, a program targeting secondary school students was delivered in November 2023.

Overall key findings were encouraging with participants reporting that the program was positive, empowering and engaging.

For young people, it improved their confidence, ability to collaborate and their trust in police. The evaluation also found that the program enhanced the general reputation of Victoria Police as well as providing benefits to individual police participants.

“The Blue EDGE program gave my [child] the confidence to give new things a go and believe in [themselves]” (family member)



DASH

In April, AERC delivered the final report for DASH, a program targeting upper primary school students. Results for this evaluation also demonstrated a positive impact for the program. The program was found to be well-managed, engaging, safe and effective. DASH was found to improve empowerment, self-efficacy, teamwork, social awareness and empathy in young people. The program also increased understanding of community participation and improving relationships with the community.

“In the future, I know I can make a big difference because DASH made me believe that I could do something great!” (student)



*Kurunjang Secondary College, Blue EDGE
& Newington Primary School, DASH*

Our Branches

Blue Light Victoria was supported by **19 active and dedicated volunteer branches** this year, each with one goal: *supporting young people in their local communities to thrive*. This saw thousands of young people benefiting in their local community from positive engagement activities!

We successfully delivered **four online Child Safety sessions** this year, which provided a platform for education and discussion about how to protect and nurture the young people that participate in our programs.

Branch programs and activities during FY24 included **Blue Light Discos, group fitness classes, 1:1 Mentoring programs, Barista Pathways training, camps, safe Motorcycle ride days, pool parties and excursions.**

We would like to thank the Epping/Mill Park, Preston (Darebin), Hastings & Geelong branches who have made the difficult decision to close during this year. The hard work and dedication of these branches has had significant benefit for young people. We thank each of the members for their commitment and making a positive difference in their local communities.



KyFit - Kyabram Blue Light

KyFit is a weekly fitness program for 12 to 16-year-olds, including those at risk of disengaging from peers, school, and community. Each session features team-building and physical activities, with police officers and youth working together to build trust and respect.

“It not only helps the kids stay active, learn about and improve their physical health, but it also builds confidence, discipline and teamwork skills. The program is creating a positive impact on the kids wellbeing, while fostering a sense of responsibility. On a personal note I believe that the program has been a lifeline for my son following the loss of his dad. It has given him a safe space to express himself, surrounded by positive role models. The support he has received has made a huge difference in his ability to cope and I am incredibly grateful for the positive impact it has had on him.” - Parent

Spotlight - Sunbury Blue Light Sargeant Kimberley Hunting, Secretary

Kimberley was destined to become a Blue Light volunteer, following in her father's footsteps...

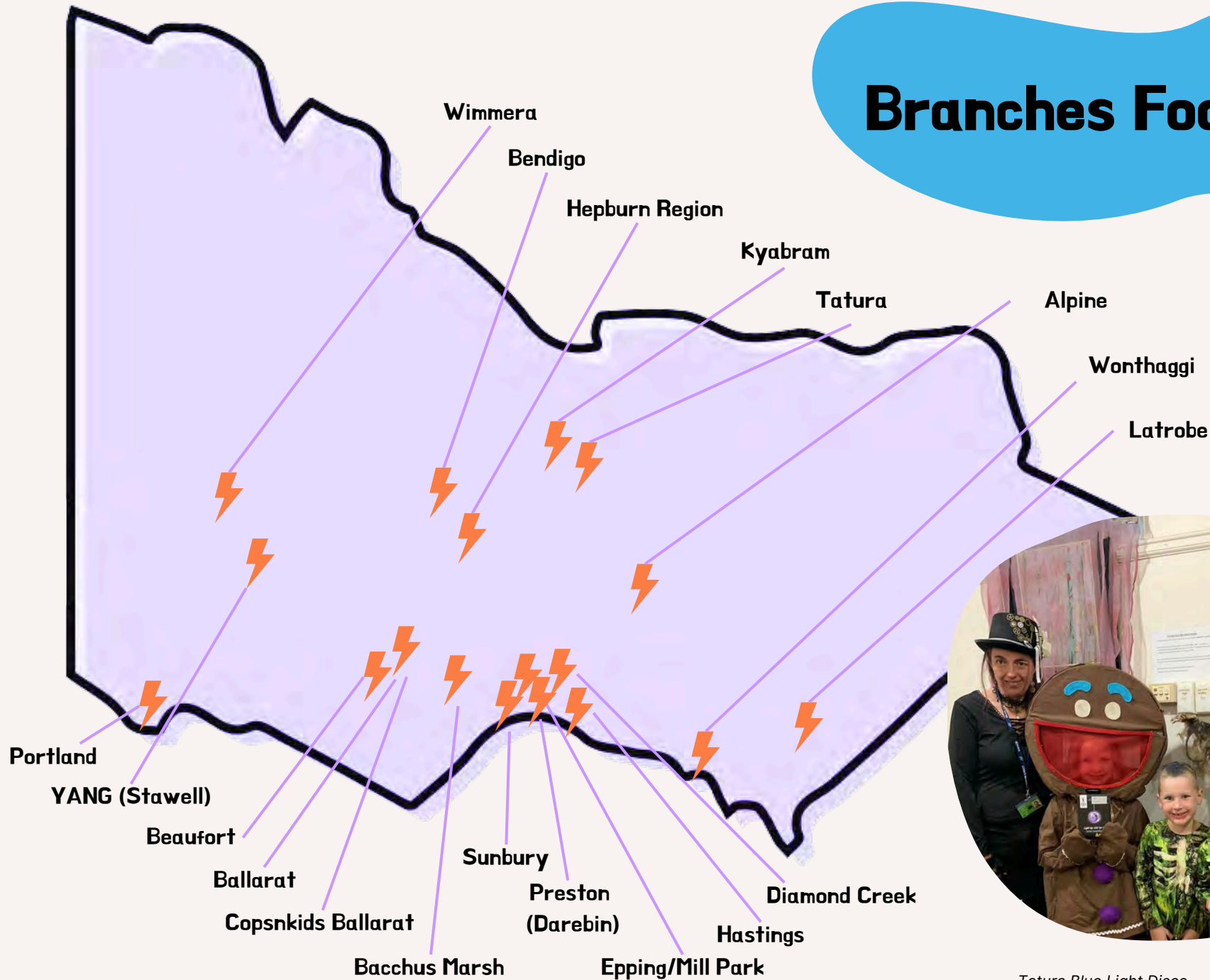
"I joined VicPol in 2006 and the Sunbury Blue Light committee in 2007. We had many ups and downs but through recruiting local volunteers we have kept it going from strength to strength.

The positive engagement with the community is what I enjoy most. Having fun with and providing a safe place for kids to be kids. We are called to people who are experiencing their worst days and that can take a toll on us and wear us thin, we need the good days as well, its like a reset button.

I just couldn't see Sunbury Blue Light fade away. My best memories are there! I love giving back to the community and ensuring my children get the same experiences I did and their friends. Sunbury Blue Light has been going for 43 years and we are always looking for volunteers! Just 3 hours, 5 Fridays a year. There is something for everyone!"



Branches Footprint



Tatura Blue Light Disco

Our People

Elissa Scott	Chief Executive Officer
Karen Burns	Operations Manager
Carolyn McSporran	Head of Strategy, Insights & Impact
Yvonne Amos	Head of Revenue & Partnerships
Kate Selimanovic	School Programs Manager
Leanne Bright	Programs Manager
Silke Nixon	Partnerships & Fundraising Manager
Kristin Marshall	Marketing & Engagement Lead
Oliver Scott	School Programs Coordinator
Fran Udvari	Administration Officer
Ariana Cristallini	Administration Officer
Katelyn Tucker	Programs Officer

Two members of the Blue Light team received personal accolades this year.

Oliver Scott (staff member and Ballarat Blue Light volunteer) was nominated for a City of Ballarat Influential Worker award and **Michelle Clifford** (President of Hepburn Region Blue Light) was inducted to the Hepburn Shire 'International Women's Day Heather Mutimer Honour Roll'. A huge congratulations to you both, we're very proud and grateful to have your skills and passion at Blue Light!

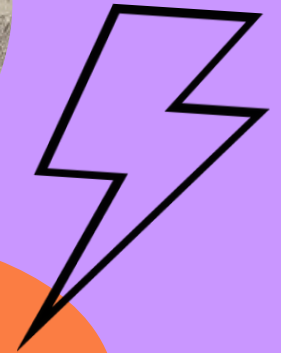


Our People

Facilitators

Alivia Chamberlain
Angela Apted
Angie Lane
Casey Greening
Christine Hance
Declan Fracaro
Diana Artis
Elizabeth Bird
Emer O'Connell
Imogen Colls
Jenny Turnham

Mackenzie Lockwood
Morgan Kriss
Natalie Katrib
Paris Hindby
Samantha Sutton-Grubert
Sarah Kennedy
Sarah Kua
Tracey Hayes



Facilitator Training

This year we have had four wonderful training days for our facilitator team during each school holidays, both face to face and online. These are high energy and impactful days where our team gets the opportunity to highlight and develop their skills in working with young people.

In one session we had the privilege of working with Mark Collard, a renowned group facilitator that uses strategic theory to engage group participants through games. His approach to personal growth stems from fun, and our team took so many new skills, ideas, and resources away from the day. This aligned with our programs philosophy of helping young people actively engage and participate in DASH and Blue EDGE through meaningful and purposeful, fun activities.

Our Life Members

Mick Miller (1985)*

Ivan Ray (1987)

Chris Rigg (1992)*

Vic Dunn (1995)

Mark Townsend (1995)

Wayne Churchill (1997)

Bill Jefferies (2000)

Ceryn Campbell (2001)

Cheryl Fensling (2006)

Graham Blair (2007)

Stephen Brand (2012)

Richenda Tomlinson (2013)

Timothy Forster (2018)

Debra Robertson, APM (2024)

Leanne Bright (2024)

Jo Parissis (2024)

**deceased*

This year we awarded three amazing women life membership – Debra Robertson APM, Leanne Bright and Jo Parissis. Each have made an enormous contribution to our branches, Blue Light team and Blue Light board for over 10 years. Without their vision, creativity, hard work, enthusiasm, mentoring and dedication Blue Light would not be the thriving organisation it is, making a real difference in the lives of young people across the community.



Debra Robertson APM



Debra started her Blue Light journey through volunteering at Preston (Darebin) Blue Light over 13 years ago. Over the many years of volunteering, Deb has led camps, outdoor adventure activities, Blue Light discos and most recently supported our Blue EDGE program. In 2013 she joined the Blue Light Victoria board and a year later took over the position of President and Chair. She held this role until December 2022, finally resigning from the board in 2023.

During her tenure Deb led the organisation through significant periods of change including major changes to the Victoria Police model of support for Blue Light, several changes of management at the Victorian Blue Light Youth Camp, COVID-19, the introduction of a CEO, significant Government opportunities and the sale of the Victorian Blue Light Camp.

Deb has been instrumental in Blue Light Victoria growing its programs for young people and supporting local communities. She has been a tireless campaigner through fundraising and sponsorship initiatives and a supportive leader to the wider Blue Light team.

Deb is a highly deserving life member. Blue Light is a better place because of Deb's significant contribution and we are so thankful for all that she has brought to our organisation over such a long period of time.

Leanne Bright



For over 10 years, Leanne Bright has been involved with Blue Light. As a Victoria Police Youth Resource Officer at the Yarra Blue Light branch, she was involved with many programs and initiatives that assisted the local CALD communities in and around the City of Yarra.

This experience led to contributing more projects including 2's Company, Walk Beside Me, BLAST Camps, Respect the Badge, Blue EDGE and many others. From researching and writing grants, to liaising with stakeholders and working on the ground, nothing was ever too hard for Leanne.

In 2014 Leanne took on the role of Blue Light President and from October 2014 to December 2019 she was Vice President providing support to Debra Robertson. During her time on the board Leanne made a significant contribution to the management and day-to-day running of the Blue Light Victorian Youth Camp including times of change management, staffing issues, COVID and finally the closure.

Leanne was also instrumental in organising and running the successful Blue Light Youth Conferences – a youth sector development opportunity and a chance to showcase and involve the community in Blue Light's work.

Her passion for making a difference in young people's lives is unwavering, which shines through with her can-do attitude, making her a worthy Life Member for any organisation.

Jo Parissis

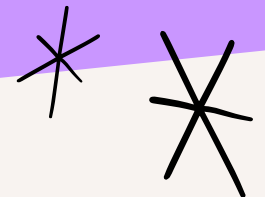


Jo Parissis has dedicated nearly two decades to Blue Light Victoria, serving in various roles that have left a profound impact on thousands of young people. Jo's commitment has been unwavering. From her tenure as President of Preston (Darebin) Blue Light to her roles as a Blue Light Victoria board member and Secretary from 2018 to 2020. She also played a pivotal role in organising and executing the Blue Light Victoria Galas, ensuring their resounding success.

In 2018, Jo initiated a weekly boxing program for students at the Pavilion School. The Pavilion School is a school for students that have been disengaged or excluded from mainstream education. This program proved highly effective, with several participants securing interviews and employment as a direct result of their involvement.

On a local level, Jo spearheaded events benefiting thousands of young people. She also established a community volunteering initiative and mentorship program. This program not only engaged youth beyond their primary school years but also provided them with valuable training opportunities. Notably, one of these volunteers went on to earn Blue Light Victoria Young Person of the Year.

Jo's tireless dedication to empowering young people and Blue Light Victoria has earned her Life Membership. Her passion shines brightly in the transformative impact she's had on countless lives.



Our Partners

Founding Partner

Victoria Police



Victoria Police continues to support us in a number of ways including members participating in our Blue EDGE and DASH programs. Victoria Police members are the backbone of our branches, facilitating activities across the state. An increased number of members supported our initiatives this year with 591 creating connections with young people. They also support our organisation with a range of in-kind services, access to Victoria Police training opportunities and marketing and communications support.

“A huge benefit of being involved in a Blue Light program is the positive engagement between Police and young people. I’ve also observed the students build their confidence and stronger relationships with their peers, instructors, teachers and Police.”

- Victoria Police member, Blue EDGE



Kurunjang Secondary College, Blue EDGE

Major Philanthropic Partner

Wheelton Philanthropy



WHEELTON
PHILANTHROPY

Wheelton Philanthropy has been supporting us for over 10 years. This partnership has made a real difference, helping us deliver life-changing programs for young people across Victoria. Together, we're empowering young people to thrive!

“It has been inspirational to support this amazing organisation over the last 10 plus years.”

- Paul Wheelton AM, Founder Wheelton Philanthropy



Major Partner

BankVic

BankVic has partnered with Blue Light Victoria for over five years, supporting young people to live their full potential. BankVic has provided sponsorship for fundraising events, engaged in volunteer opportunities seeing staff utilise their skills and expertise in creative, fun and impactful ways and provided funding to enable more young people across the state to access Blue Light school programs.

“Partnering with Blue Light Victoria is extremely rewarding. Their early intervention and prevention approaches has made a profound difference in our community. We are proud of what has been able to be achieved together and look forward to working with them well into the future.”



*Altona North
Primary School, DASH*



**- Anthony De Fazio,
BankVic CEO**



*Broadford Secondary
College, Blue EDGE*

Foundation & Government Partners

Alcohol & Drug Foundation

Australian Government -

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation -

Kinglake Ranges

City of Melbourne

East Gippsland Community Foundation

The Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust

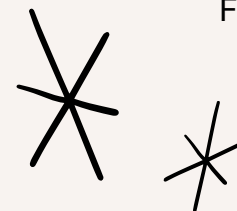
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

Hobsons Bay Community Fund

Victoria State Government -

Department of Education

Wyndham City Council





Spotlight - Wyndham City Council empowering communities

Manor Lakes P-12 College ran seven DASH programs across Term 4, 2023 and Term 1, 2024, thanks to the Wyndham City Council, Empowering Communities grant. The program has created positive steps towards fostering a stronger, safer, and more connected community in Wyndham. Evaluation data showed that DASH helped students to connect with their community, with 98% of students surveyed said after the program they knew more about how to make a difference in their community.

Surveyed students overwhelmingly nominated working on the community project and showcasing their ideas as one of their favourite parts of the program.



Community Partners

Ambulance Victoria
Australian Federal Police
City of Ballarat
City of Greater Bendigo
Coliban Water
Country Fire Authority
Endeavour Youth Australia
Flowerdale Community House
Melbourne Victory
Murrindindi Ranges Wildlife Shelter
Murrindindi Shire Council
State Emergency Service
The Village Festival
Triple 000 Victoria
Veolia Environmental Services

Tertiary & Research Partner

The University of Melbourne, Assessment and Evaluation Research Centre (AERC)

Support Partners

Blue Light Card
CUBE Group
LOD Workwear
Studio Malt
Vivid Enterprises

*Thank you to all our partners for your support!
We couldn't make a difference without you.*

Our Performance

The audited financial result for the financial year ending 30 June 2024 is a surplus of \$228,888. At the end of financial year, we maintain healthy **net assets and retained earnings of \$1,544,882.**

A key focus of FY2024 was the **diversification of our funding sources** beyond our traditional government funded programs. We achieved this through both non-government grants and Fee for Service programs in FY2024 with 27% of our total revenue of \$2,202,730 generated from these sources. We continue to focus on diversification in the year ahead particularly through the extension of Fee for Service programs.

Our work is made possible largely thanks to the financial support via grants secured from the Government and our generous Philanthropic supporters.

In FY2024, we received funding from the sources shown in the following chart. We also received a range of generous in-kind support ranging from strategic planning consultation, corporate volunteering and donations of resources & facilities.



Income

Government Grants 66%

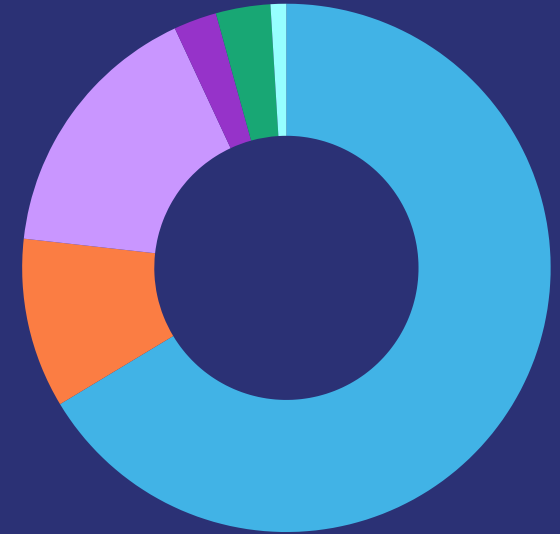
Non-Government Grants 11%

Fee For Service Programs 16%

Donations 3%

Other Income 3%

Membership Income 1%



Expenses

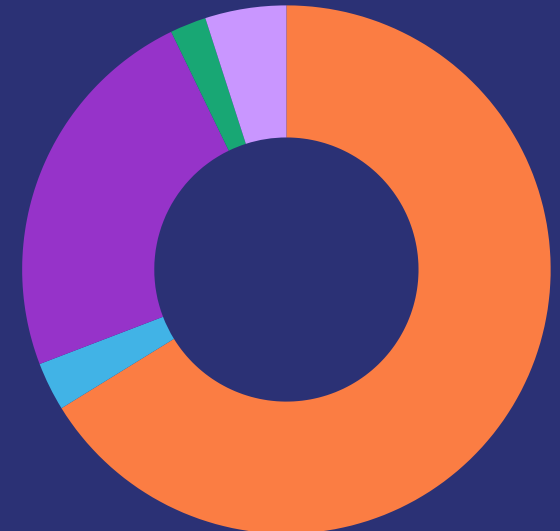
Employee Costs 66%

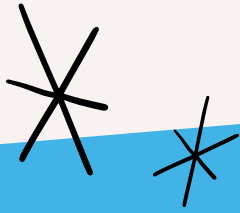
Program Expenses 24%

Insurance 3%

Other Administration 5%

Professional Services 2%





Established in 1976, **Blue Light Victoria is a for-purpose organisation working with over 14,000 young people aged 10- 21 across Victoria annually.** We are committed to inspiring young people to make positive changes in their lives, creating opportunities and environments that support their development, wellbeing, and future success. By ensuring they have the resources, guidance and support necessary, **we empower young people to thrive and reach their full potential**, while fostering a strong connection to their community.

As one of the only youth organisations **partnering with police and emergency services**, we provide young people with unique one-of-a-kind learning experiences not offered by other youth programs. This collaboration gives unparalleled opportunities for young people to engage with and learn from prosocial role models, enhancing resilience and personal growth.



*Leongatha Secondary College,
Blue EDGE*

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To support our work please go to bluelight.org.au.
Donations of over \$2 are tax deductible.

Blue Light is registered as a
charity with the Australian
Charities and Not for profit
Commission.

