

Raising Expectations on the PCA Families Podcast

About Raising Expectations: The Raising Expectations program, funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training, is increasing access, participation, and success of more young people with a care experience going onto TAFE and university. It is a partnership between the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, La Trobe University, Federation University Australia and Swinburne University of Technology. The Centre connects and collaborates with organisations across multiple sectors, including government and with multiple workforces and carers to increase awareness of young people in care and care leavers in post-secondary education, supports available to them and options and pathways to help them get there.

Raising Expectations university partners: provide tailored support to care leaver students across their campuses, including financial, academic and personal support. They are committed to supporting young people in out-of-home care (OOHC) and care leavers to access and succeed in vocational and higher education. Access their care leaver support pages [here](#) via our website.

Expansion across Victoria: this year the program is establishing connections with TAFEs and other universities to improve their awareness of young people with a care experience and the supports they need to thrive in further education.

LOOKOUT Education Support Centres: boost the capacity of schools, carers/parents, child protection practitioners and care services to improve educational outcomes for children and young people living in care. Each of the four LOOKOUT teams has an Education Careers Advisor. Advisors work with schools to support students in care from Years 7 to 10 to improve their access to career education tools, programs and positive industry engagement. For more information and contact details click [here](#).

Skills and Jobs Centres: provide expert advice and support, including career counselling, on training and employment opportunities for prospective students and job seekers. Based in TAFEs and dual sector universities across Victoria, the Centres engage with a broad range of local industries to make sure the information they offer is tailored to meet the needs of their local communities and industries. Find your local Centre [here](#).

Skills First Reconnect: supports Victorians experiencing disadvantage to overcome barriers to engaging in education, training and employment by providing support into further study or employment pathways. Reconnect providers offer counselling and mentoring, accommodation services referral, mental health support referral and employment skills building. More information [here](#).



Skills First Youth Access Initiative: this initiative gives eligible young people under 24 who have been subject to a child protection order or youth justice order at any time access to over 800 TAFE courses without paying tuition fees. From Certificate to Advanced Diploma level, young people can take more than one course provided the second is at a higher level than the first and enrolment takes place before their 24th birthday. More information and a referral form can be found [here](#).

Learn Locals: help people improve their skills for study, work and life through a range of training programs including returning to study, digital literacy, reading, writing and maths skills. Learn Locals help people get a job, change careers or learn something new. There are 250 providers operating across Victoria. Click [here](#) to find one close to you.

Open Days & Experience Days: provide opportunities for young people to explore possible career paths and vocational and tertiary study options in an interactive environment, often alongside industry representatives. Since 2020, many of these opportunities are offered online, making them more accessible than ever before. Visit TAFE and university websites for upcoming dates.

University Pathway Programs: most universities provide preparatory programs or alternative entry pathways to prospective students. Find out more about the programs at [La Trobe University](#), [Swinburne University of Technology](#) and [Federation University Australia](#).

Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS): if there have been circumstances which have made it hard for a student to do their best in their studies, schools should encourage students to make a SEAS application. There are a range of SEAS considerations including low SES, regional, Indigenous, disability and refugee background. The receiving TAFE or university can then apply special consideration to a student's application taking into account their circumstances and make reasonable adjustment. Care leavers can apply via SEAS under Category 4 – Difficult Circumstances by ticking the box to indicate they have spent time in formal out-of-home care. A letter of support by the government (Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH)) or a community organisation is required to support the application.

Contacting Raising Expectations

Directly via [our website](#) or by calling or texting us on **0407 702 975**.

[Sign up](#) to our fortnightly newsletter with all the latest news, events and resources to support care experienced people in their educational journey.

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