

## Expression of Interest

### Stepping Forward

*An incubator program for young people from diverse cultural backgrounds looking to make an impact in their local community*

#### The Program

*Are you a young person from a culturally diverse background who aspires to improve the quality of life for your community? Do you feel like you have something to contribute and can't wait for someone else to get the job done? Do you want to develop stronger skills to contribute to the change you want to see?*

*Stepping Forward* is a unique program for young people who want to be actively involved in local government decision making for the benefit of their community. The program is focused on improving leadership capacity and competency, with participants gaining a stronger understanding of civic participation and local government and learning how they can best progress the change they want to create in their community.

Our program provides an in-depth immersion for our participants into local issues and local government decision making, ensuring that participants leave the program with the ability to apply theory to real life situations. We utilise specialised subject matter experts for our program as well as local government decision makers to support them through the duration of the program.

Our methods include action learning projects, specialised facilitators, learning networks, post program opportunities and admission into our alumni network. Participants will be supported to undertake a project for change in their municipality, from initial inception to potential council endorsement and implementation.

#### Program Delivery and Commitments

Through online and face-to-face training sessions, the program will run for 6 months from July 2022 to December 2022. The program consists of six training sessions that each run for 1.5 hours. Training sessions will take place during the week in the evening at approximately 6pm. Participants with caring responsibilities may bring along their children if required (N.B. participants are ultimately responsible for ensuring adequate supervision of their children in attendance).

#### Who is Eligible?

We are currently seeking participants who live or work in the municipalities of Casey City Council and Whittlesea City Council. 12 participants from each council will be invited to participate. To be eligible it is expected that applicants will meet the following criteria:

- Young people – aged 17+
- Individuals from culturally or ethnically diverse backgrounds
- Living or working in Whittlesea or Casey local government areas

#### How do I Apply?

If you are interested, please email Deborah Wu (VLGA Inclusion & Diversity Lead) at [deborah@vlga.org.au](mailto:deborah@vlga.org.au) by Friday 1 July. with the EOI form attached. If you have additional questions, please email or call (03) 9349 7999. Please let Deborah know if you have any individual requirements so we can support your participation.

**Applicant's Details:**

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Contact Details:**

**Email Address**

**Phone Number**

*The Project Officer will respond to your application via these contact details and may also contact you for further information related to your Expression of Interest.*

Which Council area (i.e. municipality) do you live in?

**Application Response:**

***Briefly tell us about your current or previous involvement in community life, and why you are interested in being part of the 'Stepping Forward' program. In particular, we are interested in hearing about the ways that you have sought to make change and connect members of the community. If you haven't done anything like this before – tell us about your ideas!***

**Response:**

Thank you for taking the time to submit your expression of interest. We aim to respond to your submission by 8 July 2022. The launch of the program, and official welcome for participants will be held on Thursday 28 July (all applicants are welcome to attend).

The VLGA is committed to protecting personal information provided by you in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) which are set out in the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.

The VLGA will only use personal information for the purposes for which it was collected, for secondary purpose directly related to the primary purpose, with your consent, or where required or authorised by law.