

Youth Workshop Communiqué

Engaging young people in the Review of the Melbourne Declaration

Education Council Ministers today met with 52 young Australians from across the country to discuss their ideas and vision as the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (Melbourne Declaration) is refreshed for the next decade.

The Melbourne Declaration identifies aspirational goals for educating young Australians and defines a shared vision for school education in Australia.

Australia's young people are intrinsically engaged in the nation's education system and their involvement in the review is critical. Representatives aged between 13 and 26 years old shared their views about the future of education in Australia and how they'd like to see their perspectives reflected in the next national declaration.

There was vigorous discussion around a number of ideas including:

- strengthening the student voice,
- adopting strength-based approaches to learning,
- improving transitions across all phases of education, and
- promoting successful and engaged learners.

The youth workshop follows extensive and inclusive consultation across Australia. More than 900 people have already shared their views in consultation events from Canberra to Cabramatta and Tennant Creek to Tamworth. There have also been more than 150 written submissions.

A refreshed national declaration, which takes into account the feedback provided by the youth representatives today, will be developed for Education Council endorsement at the Alice Springs meeting in December 2019.