

Emerging Civic Leaders 2021

PROGRAM IMPACT REPORT

POWERED BY



Emerging Civic Leaders Program 2021: Overview

The Emerging Civic Leaders program helps young people understand the principles of values-driven leadership, develop the skills needed to build community and meaningfully participate in our civic system.

This year's program ran for 6 weeks in April and May, with 84 leaders taking part across 7 local teams. During the program, they heard from a range of expert mentors across 5 main topic areas:

DEMOCRACY

How understanding our civic system can help you to create positive outcomes.



Natasha Stott-Despoja AO

Youngest female Senator, diplomat and gender equality advocate to UN CEDAW

CREATIVITY

How to work in parameters to develop effective creative solutions.



Joel Connolly

Head of Foundation at Blackbird VC, was The Rubens manager and founder Craft Beer Week.

EXPERIMENTING

How testing big ideas in small ways can build better solutions.



Usman Iftikhar

Entrepreneur, CEO of Catalysr, and 2018 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year.

COMMUNITY

How shared values can bridge divides and create positive change.



Tim Costello AO

Former Mayor, lawyer and CEO of Australia's largest global charity, World Vision.

AMPLIFYING

How one voice can grow to many and make new ideas heard.



Dr. Susan Carland

Academic, author, social commentator, Churchill Fellow and UNICEF Ambassador.

During the program, in teams our young leaders had to collaborate to design, test and run an activation to consult large numbers of young people, taking their findings to a local decision maker. Due to COVID restrictions, and geography, activations included online and offline elements, ranging from network-effect pledge chains that harnessed social media, to offline interactions at key locations like markets, festivals and tertiary education campuses. Together, our leaders reached 936 young people in their communities.

Thank you so much for such an incredible program. This would have to be one of the shortest programs I've seen of its kind, but the most impactful I've ever done, and the most confident I've felt finishing a program. What you managed to teach and facilitate in 6 weeks has been incredible.

Jaslin

Thank you for this opportunity and for running such a great program. One of the most important things you managed to achieve was making it feel like a safe and comfortable environment to get out of your comfort zone and test new ideas from day one, all the way to our decision maker meetings.

Kristina

Thank you so so much for running such an amazing program, and for the change and impact that it has brought to all of us personally and, the people that we have each reached in our communities through ECL. It really has been an amazing six weeks.

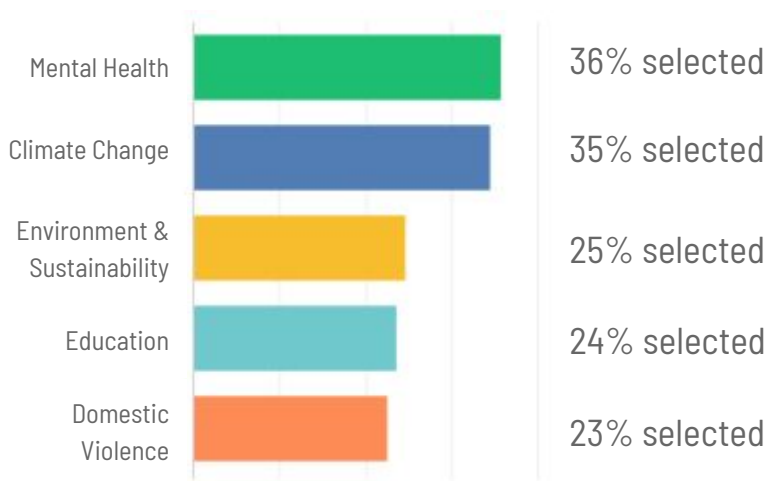
Mitch

National Cohort Evaluation

The National Cohort of the 2021 Emerging Civic Leaders program was our biggest yet, with **84 leaders** selected from hundreds of applications.

These leaders participated in the **6 week program** in **7 local teams**. Together they consulted **936 young people** in their communities, and took their concerns and ideas to every level of government.

Our consultations told us that the **top five issues for young people** in Australia are:



During consultations, our leaders also spoke with their peers about the importance of our democratic process. Nationally, **one in every five young people** our leaders spoke to updated their voter enrolment or enrolled for the first time as a result of the consultation.

In evaluating the program, our National Cohort told us that as a result of participating in Emerging Civic Leaders 2021:

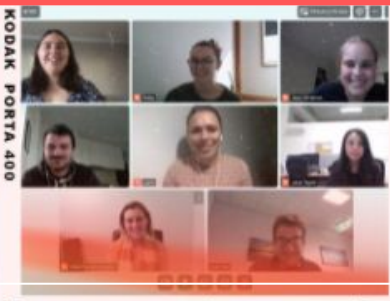
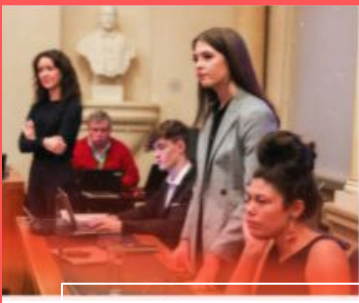
94% are more likely to engage with their local council.

94% feel more confident articulating themselves and their perspectives.

91% developed skills that they will use in every area of their life (ie. study, work).

91% built a new relationship with someone that they will stay connected with.

Overall, our participants rated the Emerging Civic Leaders program as **4.4 out of 5**.



In Their Words:

Phenomenal. Frankly it was a lot better than I expected, and more transformative than I could have thought possible for a six week program.

I feel like I was taught so well - the experts who were brought on were great in terms of thinking about the long-term vision of a life of advocacy.

Amazing from start to finish. I learnt so much.

Really empowering! I have never felt so confident in my life!

These 6 weeks have sparked a real 'light bulb moment' for me.

This has been a fantastic experience. Thank you so much for the opportunity and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the cohort in the future.

Inspirational and grounding.

I didn't know what to expect, but it's challenged me to get out of my comfort zone and embrace what it means to be a leader...it's encouraged me to engage in all these things which I typically wouldn't do on the day to day. It's ignited a drive in me to keep doing more similar work and now I just have to keep the motivation going. It's also been super valuable in being able to meet and hear from diverse people, expand my world views, and make some great new friends along the way.

Without programs like this and the people who run them, people like us wouldn't be able to extend ourselves and learn how to make waves. Thank you for such a wonderful program.

This program has linked and strengthened so many of my values that I will be taking with me in all areas of my life.

The Emerging Civic Leaders program was great. It pushed me to jump outside of my comfort zone. I liked working together with a new team and being able to think creatively and collaboratively to engage more than 100 young people. The speakers you brought in provided some insightful and diverse pieces of advice that I will hold onto forever. Thank you.

It was life changing. I learned so many valuable skills, from building up the courage to speak with young people in my local community about what's important to them and encouraging them to vote, to connecting with local leaders such as the Lord Mayor! It all happened so quickly and it was certainly a whirlwind but a fantastic experience overall.

Such a life-changing experience TBH. Thank you.

I knew this program was gonna be good, but damn. Come on. Not this bloody good!

I am so grateful for this opportunity and to meet (even just online) so many lovely people in my community.

Amazing! It made me optimistic for the future and equipped me with the foundational skills I need for a successful social impact career.

Thank you for making democracy and activation, which may sound intimidating, into something personable and actionable.

We've all developed as people and had the kind of amazing experiences that will stay with us forever, things we wouldn't have done without the program and Ripple team pushing us out of our comfort zone.

Being at ECL has definitely taught me how to handle my impostor syndrome better, as well as to make my voice heard through using democratic processes

It was transformative...I can't stop talking about it.

I was definitely put out of my comfort zone when having one on one interactions but had super meaningful conversations that I value deeply!

I cannot thank you enough, this has really accelerated the start of my leadership journey. I've grown so much in just over 6 weeks.

Thank you for such an amazing program. It has been a fantastic journey learning more about creating initiatives and what working in a team can achieve.

