

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



CHASE

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Acknowledgement of ATSI

CHASE would like to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First People and Traditional Custodians. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome

Founded in 2013, CHASE (Community Health Advancement and Student Engagement) is an innovative Victorian not-for-profit organisation led entirely by passionate volunteers and young people.



Our mission and values

At CHASE, our mission and values form the core of everything we do. They are designed with our volunteers and for our volunteers—a reflection of the individual voices that constitute CHASE as well as the collective ideals of the broader organisation.

Vision

To create a movement of young people empowered to combat preventable disease.

Mission

To engage, educate and empower students to create healthier lives for themselves and community.

Values

Agency

- We empower students to have a voice and to take ownership of their choices.
- We foster relationships of trust between secondary and tertiary students.

Vision

- We instil passion in our students and team to positively influence.
- We inspire our stakeholders to connect and synergise.

Integrity

- We demonstrate the courage and determination to do the right thing, always.
- We lead by example—with excellence, authenticity and transparency.

Inclusion

- We ensure that students, irrespective of background, have access to the same opportunities.
- We create a safe community where diversity and unconditional respect are valued.

Development

- We provide the opportunities, tools and network to maximise individual potential.
- We continually expand our impact through reflection, innovation and cohesion.

A message from our CEO



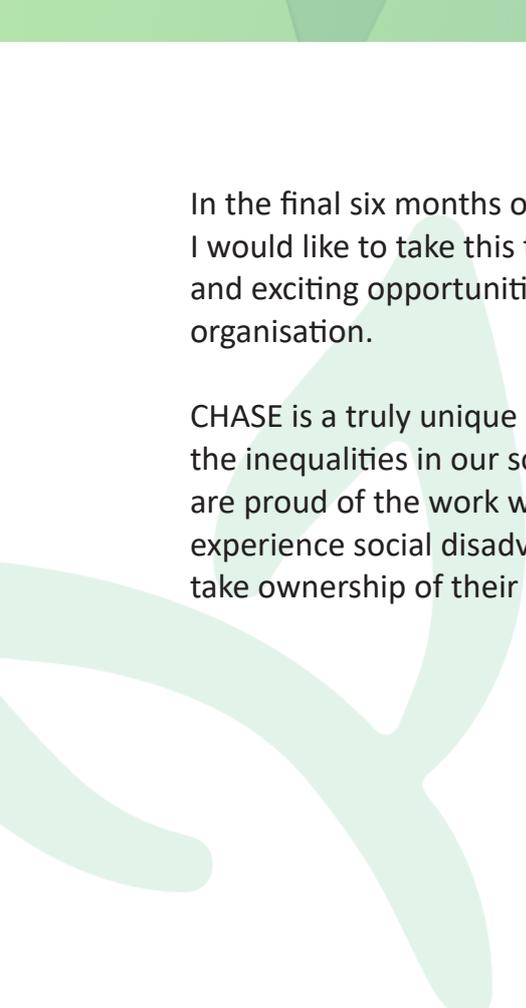
2020 was a year that not many could have predicted, with COVID-19 causing rapid changes to new models of teaching for both CHASE and our five partner schools. At CHASE we made the early decision to suspend the face-to-face mentoring aspect of the CHASE Program to ensure the safety of our volunteers and our students and teachers. Our Programs team rose to the challenge to modify the CHASE curriculum to suit teacher-led, virtual delivery of the Program.

Living through an unpredictable and unsettling year, with an extended

lockdown for the majority of our volunteers living in Melbourne was testing. Volunteering through such a time is testament to the strength and dedication of our Committee, and provided purpose and consistency for many of our team. CHASE is exceptionally proud that it was able to continue to run a program in 2020 and provide support to our volunteers. With all obstacles also comes opportunity and innovation. In 2020 we were able to move towards a mixed model of teaching, focus on volunteer engagement and wellbeing and start to expand our fundraising capability.

CHASE was also extremely excited and fortunate to win The Victorian Government Group Achievement in the Community Award at the Victorian Young Achievers Award, as well as have our outgoing CEO, Wallace Jin, win the Overall Victorian Young Achiever of the Year award. This was a great opportunity to showcase the work that CHASE does, as well as celebrate the contribution of all of our volunteers, past and present.

Looking forward to 2021, we're excited for the return of mentors to the CHASE Program, whose value and importance was highlighted in 2020 when they could not be a part of our program. As part of the continuing development at CHASE, we will be working towards regaining stability, increasing our capability and expanding our reach.



In the final six months of 2020 a transition to a new executive team occurred, and I would like to take this time to thank all of our volunteers who moved on to new and exciting opportunities at the end of last year for their contributions to our organisation.

CHASE is a truly unique initiative and organisation. The importance of health, and the inequalities in our society have been highlighted through this pandemic. We are proud of the work we do to empower young people, particularly those who experience social disadvantage, and create a movement of year people confident to take ownership of their health and wellbeing.

Amy Leong (Chief Executive Officer)

A message from our Chair

CHASE entered 2020 in a sound position with an assured income stream through user pay and an experienced executive and management team in place. Our strategies were clearly outlined through the strategic pillars and we were looking at potential funding sources that would allow us to consider further expansion of CHASE. Unfortunately 2020 will be remembered as the year of COVID that severely restricted the delivery of our CHASE program.



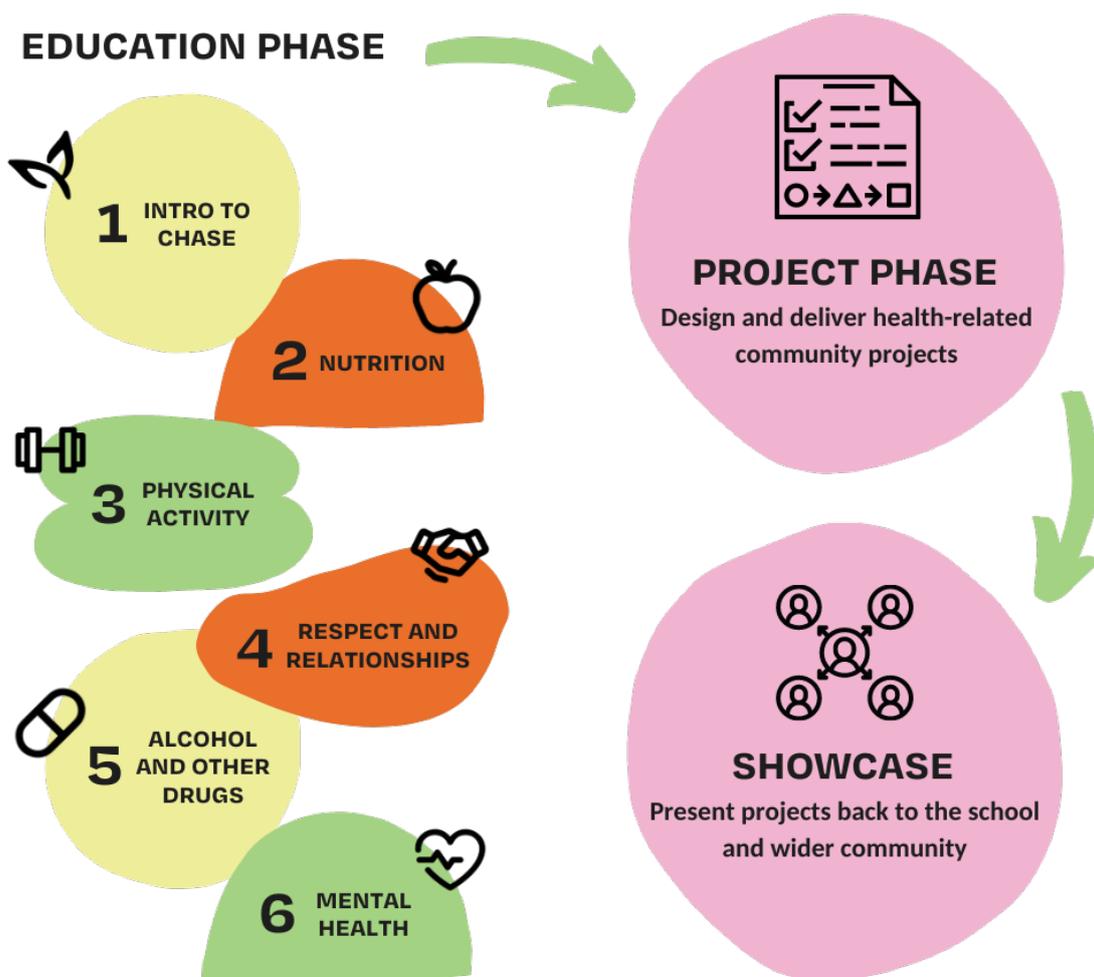
COVID prevented our mentors engaging in delivery and the associated project work face to face. Schools undertook to deliver the curriculum and manage the projects and user pay was discontinued or carried over into 2021. Despite these limitations the program was successfully delivered which is a credit to the management team.

Whilst program activity was reduced the management team were able to review the curriculum and teaching handbooks, upgrade the website, implement organisational changes, and renew the management team for 2021. In September we also managed to recruit a new CEO, Amy Leong, to replace our retiring CEO Wallace Jin which has ensured a smooth management transition for 2021. Due to the reduced activity this year CHASE is in a sound financial position that will underpin the implementation of our strategies in 2021/22 and challenges we may face.

Likely challenges we face in 2021 are centred upon managing any ongoing disruption of program delivery due to COVID related issues, ensuring program quality/excellence, and developing an understanding of the impact of the proposed changes to VCAL, outlined in the recent review of VCAL, upon the CHASE program. Expanding CHASE beyond its current reach will also be an important strategic issue for the organisation going forward.

We have a number of key CHASE people leaving the organisation this year and on behalf of the Board and our stakeholders I would like to thank them for their contribution and wish them every success in the future. Board members retiring are Tony Simpson, Anne Connors and Steve Ness. Steve Ness, our retiring chair, has been with CHASE for 6 years and over the past two years, in conjunction with Wallace has overseen the organisation's evolution into a much stronger financially secure organisation. Wallace has been an outstanding CEO during his tenure and we wish him every success with his future career.

Keith Cowlshaw (Deputy Chair)



Our program

CHASE adopts an innovative, hands-on curriculum tailored locally to the needs of VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) students in Victoria.

Since 2013, the program has reached over 2,000 youths from low socioeconomic or culturally diverse backgrounds. It has given them the opportunity to meaningfully engage with their health and education. CHASE equips them with the skills, confidence and inspiration to take agency over their own wellbeing and tackle issues most relevant to their local communities.

All community projects are student-led, meaning that students are responsible for identifying a relevant community challenge, building partnerships with local organisations, fundraising, designing an innovative solution and executing it. By giving students greater control over their health, and providing personal mentorship, we empower them to become individual leaders, both of their own futures and in their local community—what begins as simple health literacy ends in greater life literacy.

2020 Program, Reach & Impact

2020 was a tough year for all schools in Victoria. It was particularly tough for VCAL teachers and students, as maintaining the hands-on nature of VCAL via remote learning proved difficult. The CHASE Curriculum Team worked tirelessly to adapt the Education and Project Phase curriculum so that it could be taught remotely by teachers, which prior to the pandemic, was led by CHASE mentors.

Interviews with teachers found that maintaining student interest was challenging without small group activities and interactive class discussions usually facilitated by mentors. Despite these hurdles, CHASE still facilitated 65 successfully adapted workshops across four schools. From the positive feedback provided, the CHASE program helped:

- Over 77% of surveyed students feel confident in finding reliable information on each of the presented workshop topics after the CHASE program;
- Over 73% of surveyed students feel mostly to very confident to make informed decisions impacting different areas of their health after CHASE; and
- Over 80% of surveyed students found the skills they learnt in Project Phase valuable.

“All of the health topics were useful to me because I started living independently this year. So learning these helped me to make the right choice of food, take time to exercise and other right choices.”

Year 11 VCAL student

Our target - reaching those who need it the most

The CHASE program was designed through an extensive consultation and co-design process with numerous stakeholders across Victoria. We learnt that working with young individuals at the cusp of a significant life transition—such as moving from secondary to tertiary education or employment—provides an ideal window to establish positive long-term health and wellbeing practices.

CHASE’s project-based learning is also designed to integrate seamlessly with the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) curriculum. By completing the CHASE program, students are directly satisfying formal VCAL learning outcomes.

CHASE works in various municipalities across Melbourne’s north and west. These areas, which include the Brimbank, Moonee Valley, Moreland and Melton municipalities, were selected as they are home to some of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals in broader Melbourne¹. Brimbank City, the second largest municipality in Melbourne and the region with greatest student participation in CHASE, is considered an area of relative disadvantage, driven by:^{2,3}

- The fourth highest unemployment rates in Victoria at 8.3%;
- The highest proportion of people self-reporting poor health in Victoria; and
- The second lowest rate of English proficiency in Victoria

Furthermore, health and community services in Melbourne’s north and west are often underfunded and under-resourced.⁴ Coupled with strong population growth, this often leads to higher rates of preventable and long-term chronic diseases in comparison to national averages. For example, up to 1 in 7 people in Melbourne’s West has the disease, compared with 1 in 30 for the whole of Victoria.

1 Department of Health. Metropolitan Health Plan Technical Paper. May 2011

2 Brimbank Council. Mapping Brimbank’s Diversity. January 2015

3 Regional Development Victoria. Building Healthy Communities in Melbourne’s west. July 2015

4 LeadWest. Western Agenda 2012 – 2016. July 2012



“CHASE has provided the year 11 VCAL students with the wonderful opportunity to develop meaningful partnerships with the broader community.”

Lorenne Clarke (VCAL Leader)



Our partner schools in 2020

Copperfield College

Essendon Keilor College



Brimbank
City Council



Moonee Valley
City Council

Commenced in
2013

125
students in 2020

Commenced in
2013

10
students in 2020

**Brunswick
Secondary College**

**St Albans
Secondary College**



Moreland
City Council



Brimbank
City Council

Commenced in
2017

17
students in 2020

Commenced in
2019

59
students in 2020

**Lakeview
Senior College**



City of
Melton

Commenced in
2020

56
students in 2020

Who we are

Operations

“The Operations Team works to ensure the smooth internal functioning of CHASE. We oversee human resources, event management and delivery, IT and the newly minted alumni program. Whilst 2020 posed some unexpected challenges, the portfolio successfully delivered a number of new projects - from the creation of an organisation-wide Culture Deck to a complete redesign of the website. Additionally, initiatives such as the Wellbeing Survey and Virtual Games Nights worked to foster a sense of belonging and safety in the midst of COVID-19. Looking forward to 2021, we are excited to grow our community - of both mentors and committee members - and work towards increased levels of volunteer satisfaction.”

Deborah Zhang (Senior Engagement Manager)

 11:54 AM
@channel Great seeing all your smiling faces again today at virtual office day! Look forward to seeing you all at games night tonight at 7:30pm 😊

 7:06 PM
@channel Hi everyone! This weekend we've decided to do yoga straight after the VCAL PD for some zen time after some Saturday morning learning. Would love to see you there! (zoom link to be sent out on Saturday!)
❤️ 5 😊

 8:47 PM
Hey @channel I wondering if people would be interested in doing the Virtual Walk for Mental Health this year as a team for CHASE. This year it's a virtual walk, which starts off as a 60 day walking challenge and ends in joining the Mental Health Foundation Australia's Virtual Walk for Mental Health on October 18th. If you are interested, react to this message and if there is more than just me who would want to do this, I'll register CHASE as a team, and people can register for tickets (they are free) and donate to the foundation if they choose. Left a link to the event for you to have a read 🍀

Programs

The Program Team works to design, implement and evaluate the curriculum of CHASE. In 2020, our Curriculum team adapted our program to be facilitated by classroom teachers and had to be made suitable for remote and online learning. Our Program Consultants started to seek out health experts to review and endorse our Education Phase content. Our Evaluation Consultants similarly had to work quickly to adapt to the changing nature of remote learning and successfully conducted 3 online surveys to track student experience throughout the program and how COVID-19 affected their learning and engagement in 2020. They also gathered feedback from teachers which highlighted the schools' shared appreciation for the mentoring aspect of CHASE and helped shape the way CHASE will facilitate our program in the future. In 2021, the Program team looks forward to providing a well researched curriculum with the assistance of mentors and is looking to explore and evaluate new ways of engaging students, now that we have the luxury of being in classrooms again.

Joanna Anagnostou (Senior Program Manager)

Engagement

The Engagement Portfolio is the front-end of CHASE; accountable for the relationships with our external stakeholders, including schools, mentors, and community partners. The team is also responsible for CHASE's marketing and branding strategy. In 2020, the engagement team was successful in redesigning our brand and social media strategy, effectively evaluating our current initiatives with mentors, and facilitating the pivot to an online substitute of our program. In 2021, the social media and design team are excited to showcase our new logo and to create innovative content for our social media platforms. Our Mentor Managers and Community Engagement team are deploying a multitude of initiatives to ensure mentors and community partners are reaping the most reward from their volunteering experiences. Additionally, the school's team is excited to further strengthen their relationships with the partner schools through their in-person program.

Zoe Tang-Chong (Senior Engagement Manager)



Finance

The Finance Team is responsible for ensuring CHASE’s financial sustainability and achieving financial growth to facilitate CHASE’s expansion. Our core functions include managing organisational finances, expanding revenue streams as well as fulfilling compliance obligations. Despite not being able to implement a UserPay model as initially planned, CHASE was successful in securing a \$10,000 grant from VicHealth which will be utilised to finance future program delivery. 2020 also saw the establishment of a new Fundraising Team dedicated to enhancing CHASE’s fundraising capability. Overall, the Finance Team had success in streamlining internal processes, growing revenue streams and meeting ever-changing organisational needs. In 2021, we look forward to an increase in active fundraising, enhancement of financial procedures and continued skills development.

Johnny Qian (Senior Finance Manager)



Our partners in 2020



Deloitte.



How to support CHASE

CHASE is 100% volunteer run from our Board through to our Committee and Mentors. By becoming a supporter, you can help CHASE enrich the lives of young people.

To donate, visit <https://www.givenow.com.au/chaseprogram> or go to our website, www.chaseprogram.org.au and click the "Donate Now" button.

Your donation will not only help CHASE educate, engage and empower young people but it will allow CHASE to foster new and existing partnerships with local community organisations.

To find out how you or your organisation can partner with CHASE, we would love to hear from you! Contact us at info@chaseprogram.org.au.

2020 Financial Report

Income	Amount	% total revenue
Donations	\$4821.50	33.62%
Grants & Funding	\$7517.00	52.43%
Other revenue	\$2000.00	13.95%
Grand total	\$14338.50	100%

Income	Amount	% expenditure
Program Delivery	\$0	0%
Human Resources	\$1634.67	33.39%
Marketing	\$263	5.37%
Finance & Administration	\$2998.24	61.24%
Grand total	\$4895.91	100%

In 2020, while a modified CHASE program was still delivered to our schools, due to the program modifications no program expenses were incurred. As a result of the pandemic, there was no revenue collected from fundraising activities.