



**CHASE**

# ANNUAL REPORT



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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CHASE acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our organisation works and our program is taught, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

CHASE is dedicated to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural, spiritual, and educational practices, including their connection to land, seas, and waters. We acknowledge that the peoples of this land hold knowledge about health and medical practice which has been practised for thousands of years, and is distinct from Western biomedicine.

# INCLUSION AND EQUITY STATEMENT

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CHASE is committed to fostering a culture of respect, equity and inclusion. We strive to create a community where diversity and unconditional respect are valued, and volunteers and program participants are empowered to be their full, authentic selves. We are proud to stand in solidarity with LGBTQIA+ communities, Indigenous Australians, disabled people and people of colour, and continuously endeavour to make our work accessible, engaging and safe for all people of marginalised identities.

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# WELCOME

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





# OUR VALUES AND MISSION

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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 the 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.

### INSPIRATION

- 👉 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.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



In 2022, pandemic's significant impact on CHASE as an organisation was evident, but this also presented an opportunity to really reflect on the CHASE program, and reassess its future based on the changing context, and the needs of students and schools. In 2022, we continued delivering our mentor-led program at our partner schools, whilst working towards building back better. Toward the end of 2022, there were many opportunities for our organisation to really listen, reflect, reassess and begin to adapt, enabling us to start revising our organisation in line with contemporary best practice health promotion principles.

Our teams worked hard to adopt co-design methodology to ensure our program truly meets the needs of the students it is designed for, in terms of both the content and the way it is delivered. This work is a testament of our commitment to empowering young people toward better health outcomes.

Throughout the year, the Committee and Executive team worked on a variety of projects to strengthen the volunteer experience, increase our capabilities and improve our long term sustainability. We implemented strategies to successfully increase volunteer retention, expand our social media presence, and we added a Partnerships Portfolio. CHASE ran its first ever co-design workshops in 2022, as part of our commitment to delivering a program for young people, designed by young people. I look forward to seeing CHASE deliver a dynamic and contemporary curriculum that reflects the findings from these workshops, and growing stronger as a health promotion initiative.

Looking ahead in 2023, CHASE is excited to be collaborating with the Western Public Health Unit to ensure our curriculum is reflective of the unique needs of its participants. In 2023, CHASE will roll out its co-designed program, informed by disadvantaged youth, and with additional input from our local health promotion professionals. The leadership team will continue to work towards strategic objectives, with a new strategic plan to be designed mid year.

In 2023, CHASE will celebrate 10 years of being an entirely volunteer run organisation. In 2022, our volunteers delivered over \$375,000 of value into the community. I want to thank all of our 2022 volunteers for their passion, dedication and contribution - we couldn't do it without you. To those moving on to future endeavours in 2023, we look forward to learning of all the wonderful things you go on to achieve. We are proud to have played a role in your journey, and encourage you to go as far as you can - in whatever it is you choose to do.

**—LAUREN RICHARDSON (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)**



# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



I am very pleased to present the Chair's report for the 2022 CHASE Program. I would like to start by congratulating our whole CHASE Program community, the executive, committee members, volunteers, schools, community agencies and board members for continuing to deliver our program through the ever changing landscape of 2022. Without this support, there would be no program and it has been inspiring that people have continued to contribute their time and expertise. The energy and community that CHASE creates makes it a rewarding experience.

We have had a continued year of achievement, challenges and change. The strategic focus for the CHASE Board in 2022 was to maintain stability of the program while also considering how to best respond to the changing environment and needs of the students we aim to support. The COVID 19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on all workplaces, however schools and volunteer services have been put under significantly more pressure than some other environments. Students and mentors have had a difficult time and more than ever engagement is an issue for both. Despite this, the program continued to be delivered, with students benefiting from their engagement with mentors, and with community organisations continuing to support the program.

The program operated on a sound financial basis throughout the year and utilised the new grant funding (Department of Families, Fairness and Housing) to trial some paid roles. Having paid roles in the organisation raised additional governance considerations for our Board to work through which we progressed through enhanced risk review processes and an updated Board Charter. We appreciate the Executive team testing out new roles during the year as this provided us with important feedback for refining our Executive structure and developing a new strategy for providing some financial support. We are proud that we are a learning organisation aiming to constantly improve the way we structure our program, support our Executive, volunteers and mentors and work with schools.



In the later part of 2022, we farewelled our CEO Amy Leong, whose contribution to CHASE was outstanding over several years. As CEO, Amy led with kindness and care while delivering high quality work with her Executive Team. She successfully worked with members of the Board to consider options for the future of the organisation, developed a clear risk management process for the organisation and secured additional funding for the program. We hope Amy is enjoying a well-earned rest from volunteering and enjoying her new endeavours in the Northern Territory.

With Amy leaving we welcomed our new CEO, Lauren Richardson, who in the CHASE tradition has been energetic and dynamic in the role. Lauren has worked with the Board on refining our vision and purpose and set up the program for an exciting year in 2023. She has led discussion and work on renewing the program and ensuring that it continues to be fit for purpose given the various changes in the school and volunteer environment. The complexity of work for teachers has increased, school curriculum has changed, and there are additional pressures on younger people, all making it important to review the ongoing focus of the program. This development is important and means the organisation can be agile in responding to different needs whilst still staying true to the mission of engaging and empowering young people who most need this support. Lauren has progressed work on some strategic partnerships in the West which have been on the Board's strategic agenda for the past couple of years. We are looking forward to better understanding what opportunities might come from those partnerships in the coming year.

In terms of Board membership, we sadly farewelled Mary Chiodo Jennings at the end of 2022. Mary was an inaugural board member of the CHASE Program and has been an outstanding supporter of CHASE over many years. Her guidance on many aspects of the program including integrating the program into the school curriculum has been invaluable. Mary continued to focus on the program meeting the needs of students and teachers and making suggestions as the environment changed, as well as contributing significantly to strategic planning. Mary is clearly a valued leader as a school principal and she led us well through our various developments as a Board, and we will miss her contributions and her warmth and generosity. I am pleased to announce that we have welcomed Annie Downing to the Board for the 2023 year. Annie is an experienced educator currently working at the Melbourne University Graduate School of Education, and she brings a strong interest in student wellbeing to the role. We have demonstrated that we are a resilient and adaptable organisation and we are looking forward to the coming year and the many positive developments that are being pursued.

— DIANNE COUCH (CHAIR)

# OUR PROGRAM

CHASE adopts an innovative, hands-on curriculum tailored locally to the needs of VCE - Vocational Major (VM) 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.



# 2022 PROGRAM, REACH & IMPACT

2022 was another tough year for all schools in Victoria. The CHASE Curriculum Team worked tirelessly to adapt the Education and Project Phase curriculum so that it could be taught remotely. Our mentors were dynamic and agile, managing changing workshop dates and remote teaching and projects.

Student focus groups and teacher interviews found that students and teachers saw the value of having mentors deliver the program. However, student focus groups revealed that students found it challenging completing the CHASE program remotely during lockdown. From the positive feedback provided, the CHASE program had the following impacts:

- On average, 70% of surveyed students agreed that each of the Education Phase workshop topics was relevant to their life.
- On average, 82% of surveyed students either agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed having mentors teach the CHASE program content.
- On average, 84% of surveyed students agreed that mentors showed good knowledge of the health topics within each of the Education Phase workshops.
- On average, 78% of surveyed students either agreed or strongly agreed that mentors were engaging during the delivery of each of the Education Phase workshop topics.
- On average, 73% of surveyed students would recommend the CHASE program to other students.

**"All mentors that I had are knowledgeable and approachable and helped me engage in discussions"**  
- Year 11 VCAL student

**"The chase program is very educational and will sure have an impact in the community"**  
- Year 11 VCAL student

**"They (mentors) were kind and generous in their teachings and are considerate of how the students feel"**  
- Year 11 VCAL student

# OUR TARGET

reaching those who need it 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 recently reformed senior secondary certificate in 2023 which brings together the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). By completing the CHASE program, students are directly satisfying requirements of the VCE - Vocational Major (VM).

CHASE works in various municipalities across Melbourne's north and west, including the Brimbank, Moonee Valley, Moreland and Melton municipalities. These areas are home to some of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals in broader Melbourne. 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:

1. The fourth highest unemployment rates in Victoria at 8.3%;
2. The highest proportion of people self-reporting poor health in Victoria; and
3. 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. 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.

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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



# OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS IN 2022

School	Logo	Municipality	Year commenced with CHASE	# of students in 2022
<b>Brunswick Secondary College</b>	 The logo for Brunswick Secondary College features a stylized star composed of four colored segments (purple, yellow, green, blue) and a white star in the center. Below the star, the text "BRUNSWICK" is written in blue and "SECONDARY COLLEGE" in yellow.	Moreland City Council	2017	11
<b>Copperfield College</b>	 The logo for Copperfield College features a red circular emblem with a white and blue abstract design inside. Below the emblem, the text "Copperfield" is written in a serif font and "COLLEGE" in a smaller, all-caps sans-serif font.	Brimbank City Council	2013	121
<b>Essendon Keilor College</b>	 The logo for Essendon Keilor College features a stylized mountain range in red, white, and green. To the left, the text "PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE" is written in a circular arrangement. To the right, the text "Essendon Keilor College" is written in a sans-serif font.	Moonee Valley City Council	2013	31
<b>St Albans Secondary College</b>	 The logo for St Albans Secondary College features a stylized red and white mountain peak inside a green circular emblem. Below the emblem, the text "ST ALBANS" is written in a large, bold, serif font and "SECONDARY COLLEGE" in a smaller, all-caps sans-serif font.	Brimbank City Council	2019	57

# OUR PEOPLE

## OPERATIONS

The Operations Team has undergone an overhaul in 2022, welcoming Social Media, Design and Communications into its fold again, whilst continuing to build its capacity in delivering events and digital infrastructure for the organisation. Over the past year, we have introduced volunteer management software, curated the second iteration of the CHASE Conference, and seen continued growth across our social media platforms to raise brand awareness and share our vision and promote youth empowerment. We look forward to continuing this work in 2023, and continuing to position ourselves as a destination of choice for volunteers seeking to make a social impact.

**DEBORAH ZHANG**  
OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

## PROGRAMS

The program team works to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate the CHASE curriculum. In 2022, our Curriculum Team continued to adapt the CHASE program due to ongoing COVID-19 impacts. Despite this, they worked hard to develop and conduct CHASE's first ever curriculum co-design workshops with students. Our Evaluation team worked to ensure the program evaluation findings were reflective of mentor and student feedback, and worked to develop public facing reports. In 2023, the re-designed CHASE curriculum topics will include life skills, navigating the Australian healthcare system, alcohol and other drugs (with a focus on vaping), climate change, asthma self-management, respectful relationships and mental health. The Evaluation Team has been renamed to 'Monitoring and Evaluation' to ensure our program is adapting and improving as it is being delivered. The program team looks forward to continuing to find opportunities to ensure the design and delivery of a program that aligns with contemporary public health practice.

**KARINA RICE**  
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE

# OUR PEOPLE

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Partnerships portfolio first commenced in 2022, which saw the Community Engagement and Schools teams work in close collaboration to establish, engage and maintain professional relationships with new and current key CHASE stakeholders, including our partner schools, community organisations and the greater community. The teams worked closely with the stakeholders to ensure needs and expectations were jointly met. Partnerships in 2022 included Western Health, Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Relationships Australia Victoria, Red Frogs, Harm Reduction Victoria, Tidbits with ET and LiverWELL. Whilst 2022 presented its challenges navigating and securing partnerships in a post-lockdown setting, the teams showed resilience and quickly adapted to changing circumstances. In 2023, the portfolio will expand to introduce the External Partnerships branch, which will oversee and manage relationships outside of the CHASE curriculum program. The Partnerships team are looking forward to strengthening our connections and sustainable collaborations with our schools and community.

**JOYCE ZUPANEK**  
PARTNERSHIPS EXECUTIVE

## FINANCE

The Finance Team is tasked with overseeing CHASE's finance and accounting functions, ranging from regular reporting and control management, through to fundraising and revenue expansion. Our core functions include accounting, compliance, fundraising and organisational strategy, enabled by our multidisciplinary team. Highlights of the past year include developing a new chart of accounts to better relay CHASE's financial statements to the board and potential investors. Furthermore, we also investigated and implemented the transferral of our financial statement processing to XERO (a cloud-based accounting software), which allows for increased efficiency. The fundraising team has also developed an articulate document regarding future fundraising strategies which includes a SWOT analysis of our options and an analysis of our competitors. We look forward to implementing these strategies for CHASE in 2023!

**ALEA YOUNG**  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

# OUR PEOPLE

## VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

2022 marked the debut of the Volunteer Management portfolio, which saw the Human Resources and Mentor Management teams work closely together to ensure that Mentors and Committee members were recruited, onboarded and supported. Highlights of the year have included the enhancement of recruitment and onboarding procedures and the implementation of strategies to make volunteering more accessible for Mentors such as a dual delivery system for training workshops and transformed travel reimbursement policies. At our End of Year Mentor Event, one mentor recounted “CHASE has been a wonderful place for me to build new connections in a new city but also make a difference” and our team will work to ensure that the 2023 Mentor cohort have similarly positive experiences.

**KLEA ATALLAH**  
VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

## HOW TO SUPPORT CHASE

CHASE is **volunteer led** 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](http://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](mailto:info@chaseprogram.org.au).



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Income	Amount	Total Revenue (%)
<b>Donations</b>	\$5,085.38	5.8%
<b>Grants and Funding</b>	\$70,000	79.6%
<b>Program Income</b>	\$12,870	14.6%
<b>Grand total</b>	\$87,955.38	100%

Expenses	Amount	Total Expenses (%)
<b>Program Delivery</b>	\$17,015	28.9%
<b>Human Resources</b>	\$32,994	56.0%
<b>Marketing</b>	\$229	0.4%
<b>Finance &amp; Administration</b>	\$8,694	14.8%
<b>Grand total</b>	\$58,932	100%



**CHASE**