

Media Release



12 May 2021

Australian Government supports High Resolves' school-based programs for young Australians to help build social cohesion, strengthen cultural understanding and promote positive participation in their local community.

High Resolves Australia is grateful to receive \$3 million from the Morrison Government over two years from 1 July, announced in the Australian Government's budget on 11 May 2021.

High Resolves provides immersive and engaging workshops in secondary schools, teaching students critical life skills in independent thinking, resilience, cohesive contribution to society and community, an ability to distinguish manipulation from truth, and a sense of developing a better, more responsible self.

We work with young people to develop their own sense of responsibility and capability in contributing to resolving globally shared challenges, and have reached more than 400,000 students in Australia.

In 2020 and 2021, we have worked with both students and teachers to tackle challenging conversations around gender, race and discrimination. We have used the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to teach students about the importance of community cohesion and respect, as well as the fairness in the allocation of resources.

Like all education settings, the work of High Resolves was deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unable to work in many school settings, we were able to partner with OpenLearning to develop online versions of our curriculum and workshops, as well as myriad compact teaching resources to enable teachers to deliver values and citizenship education, embedded in other curriculum goals.

In our annual Videos for Change challenge, where students make a one-minute video about a social issue of importance to them, we asked Australian students to voice what community means to them in a crisis. We developed new curriculum regarding COVID, fake news and racism.

Our work supports the national curriculum aspects of cultural and ethical understanding.

It also supports Australia's performance in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). In 2020, Australia ranked behind many of its key economic partners in terms of Global Competence, behind the OECD average in terms of wanting to learn about other cultures, and assuming less responsibility for action for collective well-being and sustainable development.

The OECD has argued widely that learning to participate in interconnected, complex and diverse societies is no longer a luxury, but a pressing reality, supportive of students learning in the critical and traditional elements of curriculum including the sciences, maths and languages.

The injection of funds provided by the Australian Government in its Budget last night will enable High Resolves to reach an additional 30,000 students each year, and to maintain its face-to-face activity beyond the capital cities in Australian eastern states. We have vibrant and growing hubs in Newcastle, Wollongong, the Gold and Sunshine Coasts as well as regional Victoria.

Our investment in online options through the 2020 school year, will also enable us to make this essential and complementary education available to students in South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Territory, the ACT, and Tasmania.

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