



2023 Annual Report



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Inner Northern LLEN acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional custodians of the lands and waterways in the inner north, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

The Wurundjeri people (Woiwurrung language group) are the recognised Traditional Owners of a large estate that includes urban and rural lands as well as waterways. Wurundjeri Country includes the inner city of Melbourne extending north of the Great Dividing Range, east to Mount Baw Baw, south to Mordialloc Creek and west to the Werribee River.

Learn more about Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Culture, go to wurundjeri.com.au





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OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

We acknowledge and thank the **State Government of Victoria** for the funding provided to the Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) across Victoria to develop partnerships that increase the number and range of school-employer engagement activities in our local government areas of Darebin, Merri-bek and Yarra.







INLLEN acknowledges our funding partners and takes this opportunity to thank them for their valued support in 2023.





Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions



























ABOUT US

INNER NORTHERN LOCAL LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT

NETWORK (INLLEN) is an independent community organisation that builds partnerships and strategies to improve education, training, and employment outcomes for young people across Darebin, Merri-bek and Yarra.

The LLEN model was established in 2001 to improve education, training and employment outcomes for young people. Currently, there are 31 Local Learning and Employment Networks or LLENs in Victoria.

INLLEN is an incorporated association governed by a Committee of Management made up of people from industry, government, education and training providers, and the local community.

INLLEN is currently funded by the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to deliver the School to Work Program 2023-2025.

OUR VALUES

COMMUNITY: We work collaboratively with young people, schools, education providers, businesses, industry, not-forprofits, and government.

EMPOWERMENT: We develop young people to be self-determining, capable, and caring.

EQUITY: We promote opportunities to access a level playing field.

PLACE: We acknowledge country, connecting to place, respecting the environment.

OUR VISION

All young people in the Inner North transition successfully from education to meaningful post school options of their choice.

OUR MISSION

To improve education, training, and employment outcomes for young people across the inner north.



OUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

INLLEN is an incorporated association with a Committee of Management (COM) that is elected by INLLEN members, and responsible for establishing the organisation's strategic direction. COM members are a diverse range of representatives from industry, government, education & training providers and local community.

If you're interested in a Committee of Management position, elections are held yearly at our AGM in May. You need to be a member of the INLLEN to nominate to be on the Committee. Membership is open to any individual or organisation interested in education, training and employment in Darebin, Merri-bek and Yarra regions.

To become a member of the INLLEN, go to inllen.org.au/about/membership

2023 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

CHAIRPERSON

Ann Haynes - Community Member

SECRETARY / PUBLIC OFFICER

Raffaela Galati-Brown - Northern College of the Arts and Technology (NCAT)

TREASURER

Martin Ramsay - Northcote High School

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kellie Watson - LaTrobe University

Adam Todorovski - Melbourne Polytechnic

Ralph Gotlib - Lynall Hall Community School

Wendy Dinning - Darebin City Council

Julie McClimont - Kangan Institute

Roberto Colanzi - Community Member







CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2023

2023 was a positive year, INLLEN successfully delivered the new School to Work Program funded by the Department of Education. I take this opportunity to thank our funding partners, the Department of Education (DE), VicRoads, Northern Metropolitan Partnership, Inner North Community Foundation and our various program sponsors.

In 2023, we implemented our new INLLEN Strategic Plan (2023-2025), which was developed by the Committee of Management, whom I thank for their commitment to providing strong governance and direction for INLLEN during these challenging times. I also take this opportunity to thank our Treasurer, Martin Ramsay, and Secretary, Raffaela Galati-Brown, for their work throughout the year.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to our schools, community agencies, local businesses and our many local volunteers who bring our programs to life. Finally, I thank the INLLEN staff for their commitment to this critically important work.

There were many highlights during 2023 as we continue to develop partnerships to support young people in this post-COVID environment. Our responses are more important than ever in these uncertain times, with young people still experiencing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, we continued to deliver the Merri-bek L2P program, supporting up to 60 young people to gain driving experience with a volunteer mentor and to successfully get their P plates. We also continue to deliver innovative projects such as Real Industry Job Interviews (RIJI), the Industry Speaker Bank (ISB), the Vocational Mentoring Exchange (VME), and the Pathways to Creative Industries Project. These projects demonstrate our ongoing commitment to addressing issues identified in our local consultation and research. The aim is to support the needs and skills development of young people as well as building the capacity of our secondary schools and community partners to support the projects.

If you would like to get involved in INLLEN's work, we have lots of volunteering opportunities for you to give back to your community, so please reach out to our team if you are interested.

Ann Haynes

Chairperson

TREASURER'S **REPORT**

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR **THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

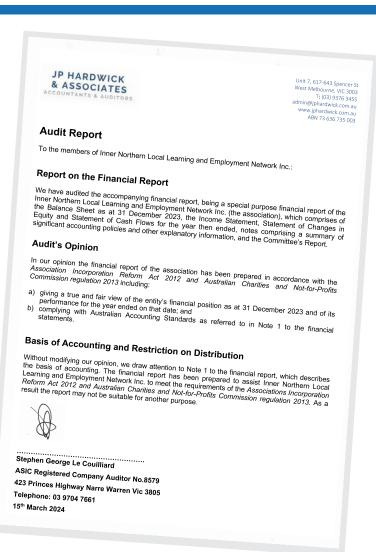
The financial state of the Inner Northern LLEN is sound and well managed. Reference to the financial information included in this report will provide the reader with an overview of the INLLEN financial position and includes an audited profit and loss statement and a balance sheet for the 2023 financial year.

You will find a copy of the independent audit report provided by J.P Hardwick & Associates in this annual report, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian auditing standards. In their opinion, the financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the INLLEN as of 31st December 2023.

The Finance & Governance Committee is responsible for good governance as well as finance. During the year, we reviewed and updated all policies and procedures, putting in place strong governance for the organisation.

INLLEN staff continue to work productively with the Finance and Governance Committee to provide full transparency on financial cash flows, budgets, and her relevant information. Once again, the very detailed notation provided by our Accountant, Adam Ramage of Canny Group, has helped the Committee.

Adequate provision has been made to meet the financial commitments likely to be incurred in meeting INLLEN's strategic objectives and our projected operating costs. In 2023, INLLEN raised additional income through a Northern Metropolitan Partnership grant and is well-positioned to



meet its strategic goals for 2024.

The organisation is in a sound financial position and continues to maintain a healthy working capital ratio going forward.

Furthermore, I recommend the appointment of J.P Hardwick & Associates as Auditor for 2024.

I refer everyone to the financial audited report on page 9-10.

Martin Ramsay

Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET

Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network Incorporated

As at 31 December 2023

	31 DEC 2023
ssets	
Bank	
Bendigo Bank - Savings 280	314,148.50
Bendigo Bank credit card	-
INNER NORTHERN LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK INC	28,312.18
Long Service Savings	70,292.81
620 - INLLEN Petty Cash	242.00
Total Bank	412,995.49
Current Assets	
630 - Accounts Receivable	182,630.00
Total Current Assets	182,630.00
Fixed Assets	
650 - Furniture & Equipment: (a) At Cost	74,017.98
651 - Furniture & Equipment: (b) Accumulated Depreciation	(73,356.95)
Total Fixed Assets	661.03
Total Assets	596,286.52
iabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Bendigo Bank credit card	1,073.84
810 - Accounts Payable	(30.90)
830 - GST	13,401.03
832 - Payroll Liabilities: PAYG Clearing Account	11,828.06
836 - ATO Integrated Client Account	17,646.00
846 - Grant Received in Advance - DET	111,963.35
852 - Grant Received in Advance - Creative Industries	-
853 - Funds Carried Forward - New Vehicle	28,000.00
860 - Rounding	0.87
870 - Payroll Liabilities: Provision for Annual Leave	29,340.59
870.01 - Payroll Liability: Provision for LSL	75,617.69
871 - Payroll Liabilities: Superannuation Clearing Account	-
Total Current Liabilities	288,840.53
Total Liabilities	288,840.53
let Assets	307,445.99
Equity	
960 - Retained Earnings	329,357.26
Current Year Earnings	(21,911.27)
Total Equity	307,445.99

PROFIT AND LOSS

Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network Incorporated

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Trading Income		
200.12 - Grant Funding: Dept of Education & Training VIC (State)	534,826.04	502,106.16
200.14 - Grant Funding: L2P Funding	158,271.20	139,515.20
200.20 - Grant Funding: Creative Industries	84,000.00	96,000.0
205 - Proceeds of Sale of Capital Asset - L2P	4,603.51	
214 - Project Income - Jobs for Youth & RIJI	46,487.27	51,727.2
297 - Sundry Income	667.00	
Total Trading Income	828,855.02	789,348.63
Gross Profit	828,855.02	789,348.63
Other Income		
270 - Interest Income	2,344.40	613.0
Total Other Income	2,344.40	613.0
Ontime F		
Operating Expenses	21 504 00	20.160.00
410 - Auditing & Accounting Fees	21,504.00	20,160.00
415 - Bank Fees	313.67	262.60
420 - Catering & Meeting Expenses	2,202.91	3,177.9
421 - Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	1 224 00	202.73
427 - Depreciation	1,234.80	1,208.4
430 - Filing Fees	1.050.00	620.00
435 - Insurance	1,950.00	25 000 0
438 - IT Charges	16,958.94	25,090.8
455 - Photocopying & Printing	1,777.19	2,809.2
457 - Postage	1,738.35	2,029.6
460.12 - Program Costs: Events	572.73	468.1
460.13 - Program Costs: Car Expenses	737.39	5,496.60
460.15 - Program Costs: Marketing & Promotion	856.36	2,872.1
460.17 - Program Costs: Meeting & Catering Expenses	3,545.85	4,454.6
460.18 - Program Costs: Driving Lessons	11,285.46	8,613.6
460.19 - Program Costs: Consultants	11,744.05	10,784.3
460.22 - Program Costs: Police & Licence Checks	227.27	265.1
460.31 - Program Costs: Printing & Stationery	6,766.98	7,456.79
460.32 - Program Costs: Recognition of Mentors	2,700.00	2,753.58
470 - Rent & Outgoings	6,251.82	12,903.3
485 - Staff Amenities	148.90	441.8
490 - Stationery & Office supplies	907.61	1,634.4
495 - Subscriptions & Memberships	6,886.01	4,080.0
500 - Telephone	4,584.57	4,747.1
505 - Travel & Accommodation	1,093.79	722.3
530 - Wages		
530.17 - Wages:Provision for Annual Leave	(5,965.04)	(24,348.06
530.21 - Wages:Employees	662,029.08	673,575.8
530.26 - Wages:Provision for Long Service Leave	4,333.00	4,847.0
530.51 - Wages:Recruitment Expenses	-	140.0
530.55 - Wages:Salary Sacrifice	0.02	
530.61 - Wages:Staff Professional Development	1,079.66	4,805.8
530.71 - Wages: Superannuation	76,361.58	73,202.1
530.81 - Wages:Travel Reimbursement	1,817.74	2,261.6
530.91 - Wages:WorkCover	7,466.00	6,956.42
Total Operating Expenses	853,110.69	864,696.53
Net Profit	(21,911.27)	(74,734.85

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT 2023

As part of the Firth Review education reforms, the INLLEN was engaged to deliver the new School to Work Program in 2023. The Program supports senior secondary students to have better access to work-based learning opportunities, enhance school-industry understanding and engagement and supports the delivery of Vocational Education through clusters.

In 2023, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) was expanded to include the VCE–Vocational Major offered in all government schools. This replaced the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) that has been in place for the past 20 years, successfully keeping many students engaged in education to achieve a year 12 qualification.

The Firth Review reforms promote better access to Vocational Education and Training programs for all students across Victoria. INLLEN continues to work with DE and our secondary schools to support the implementation of these reforms for better education and employment outcomes for young people in our region.

INLLEN has strongly supported applied learning and

Will input last 371

Will input last 371

Will input last 371

Will input last 371

vocational education and training in our region for more than 20 years. INLLEN supported the role out of VCAL and was a strategic partner in developing the Northern College of the Arts and Technology and establishing the Northern Melbourne VET Cluster (NMVC), that supports more than 60 secondary schools in the northern region of Melbourne.

The major highlights in 2023 have been the expansion of the Vocational Mentoring Exchange (VME), the establishment of the Creative Industries Project with support from Northern Metropolitan Partnership and the delivery of the Real Industry Job Interviews program to more than 1000 students.

A huge thank you to our schools, volunteers, community partners, sponsors, funders, and our incredible staff who have rallied to make these projects come to life in 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee of Management for their time and effort in governing INLLEN. I particularly thank our Chair, Ann Haynes, Treasurer, Martin Ramsay, and Secretary, Raffaela Galati-Brown, for their work throughout the year.

The work of INLLEN is only possible with a great staff team, so I take this opportunity to thank Rochelle, Bret, Yui, Janelle, Mohamed and Laura for their commitment and professionalism to our work over the past year.

If you would like to get involved in INLLEN's work, I encourage you to look at the various opportunities we have available to volunteer your time to support a local young person in 2024.

David Kennedy

Executive Officer

THE **TEAM**



David KennedyExecutive Officer

dkennedy@inllen.org.au



Rochelle Darby

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Program

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to Work Program & L2P
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Mohamed Ragge Merri-bek L2P Coordinator



Laura FugaroMerri-bek L2P Administration
Officer

OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN 2023



In 2023, INLLEN successfully developed and delivered initiatives through the School to Work Program, the Merribek TAC L2P Program, the Pathways to Creative Industries project and the Vocational Mentoring Exchange. These funded initiatives deliver a range of programs and activities to support better outcomes for young people.

INLLEN worked in partnership with 226 partners from schools, community, and industry to deliver 81 programs and events in 2023.

Our 81 programs and events engaged 3297 young people

during the year, which was only possible through the support of our 226 partners and the 278 local volunteers who

collectively volunteered 9511 hours to make these programs

Our Programs and Activities in 2023

- Structured Workplace Learning student placements
- Industry Speaker Bank Events
- Industry Tours
- Real Industry Job Interviews program
- Pathways to Creative Industries project
- Vocational Mentoring Exchange Mentoring Matters Program
- Merri-bek TAC L2P program

A massive thank you to all INLLEN's wonderful partners and volunteers who supported 3297 young people in our region



come to life.

in 2023.



SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAM



This year INLLEN delivered the new School to Work program which is funded by the Department of Education for the next 3 years (2023–2025).

This program supports access to work-based learning opportunities, so students can develop employability skills and make informed career choices. Excitingly, this enabled us to continue the great work already underway with our

schools, local employers, industry and community partners to help improve senior students' transition from school to work.

Our 2023 program included on-the-job experiences, industry speakers and tours, a work readiness program, vocational mentoring, a youth employment network, and support of other key networks.





26 120

Hosts Young People





27 1417

Events Young People







Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements provide students with the opportunity to integrate on-the-job experience with secondary study. It is delivered as part of a students' secondary schooling certificates and subjects, such as Vocational Education and Training (VET), the VCE Vocational Major, VCE Industry and Enterprise or the Victorian Pathways Certificate.

INLLEN supports the Structured Workplace Learning program across the region by sourcing suitable placement opportunities with host employers.

In 2023

- 120 young people from 21 INLLEN schools accessed work placement opportunities via the SWL portal
 - 66 young people from INLLEN schools undertook local work placements
 - 62 INLLEN students engaged in placements outside our region
- 52 young people from outside our region took up placements within our local area
- 8 new host employers were added to existing 30 active employers
- 26 INLLEN host employers offered 118 placements

inllen.org.au/structured-workplace-learning



Real Industry Job Interviews (RIJI)

The **Real Industry Job Interviews (RIJI)** provides young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to take on the current job market by developing good job search, resume writing and interviewing skills.

The program targets Year 10/VCE & VCE Vocational Major students and is delivered as part of the school's curriculum through a series of guided lesson plans. It culminates in a face-to-face interview with a local volunteer employer at regional RIJI events (Darebin, Yarra and Merri-bek).

In 2023, the RIJI program was offered for a fourteenth consecutive year. We hosted four regional face-to-face mock interview events in partnership with Merri-Bek Youth Services, Darebin Youth Services and Yarra Youth Services.

The RIJI program saw the involvement of 21 schools, with 1018 students completing the in-class program. Additionally, 748 students had the chance to refine their interview skills at the mock interview events. This achievement was realised with the committed support of 96 volunteers from 37 different organisations.

inllen.org.au/riji





Inner Northern Youth Employment Network

The Inner Northern Youth Employment Network (INYEN) aims to improve the coordination of providers, sectors and systems to support the transition of young people from school to work.

The Network meetings provide the opportunity for members to hear from representatives in the youth employment sector at a State and Federal government level, and contribute to the continued conversations and action regarding the employment of young people living in Darebin, Merri-bek and Yarra.

In 2023, 222 members participated in four network meetings. The four meeting themes explored:

- **Apprenticeships and Traineeships**
- **Health and Community Services**
- **Sports & Recreation**
- Transition to Work program

We look forward to building on the network's success with quarterly meetings in 2024.

inllen.org.au/inyet



Industry Speaker Bank (ISB)

The Industry Speaker Bank (ISB) has various industry engagement options available to support school's career education. Schools can access a range of local industry / vocational experts to explore and inspire students' career pathways or get specialised advice and information from a series of job-ready workshops designed for young people.

In 2023, we ran 27 ISB events supporting 13 local schools and community organisations. In addition, 36 speakers from our community engaged with 1,417 students, covering topics including employability skills, career planning, young workers' rights at work, apprenticeships, and traineeship readiness.

Thanks to our ISB workshop delivery partners MEGT, Melbourne Polytechnic Jobs & Skills Centre, Job Watch, YMCA, Nutromics and Young Workers Centre for all their outstanding support of this initiative.

inllen.org.au/initiatives/industry-speaker-bank



Vocational Mentoring Exchange (VME)

The **Vocational Mentoring Exchange (VME)** recruits, trains and supports vocational mentors from all walks of life who volunteer to assist young people (16–25yrs) from the inner north of Melbourne in their career transition journey. The Exchange is coordinated by the Inner Northern LLEN, with funding support from multiple partners.

Our aim is to develop and activate a bank of 100+ volunteer mentors who can support the career transition of young people in education or community agency settings. Excitingly, we finished the year with 112 fabulous mentors but know that as most are in full time employment, we will need to continue to recruit to ensure we have the availability needed for our school-based programs.

2023 was a year of consolidation and sustained growth for the Exchange. This saw the addition of a fourth mentoring stream and with increasing demand from schools for industry speakers and the RIJI program, pleasingly our mentors also made time in their busy working lives to support these other valuable INLLEN initiatives. Most importantly, the feedback from mentees, mentors, and our school and community partners continues to be incredibly positive about the value of vocational mentoring.

1. VME Mentoring Matters (MM) School-based program embedding vocational mentoring in the VCAL/VCE

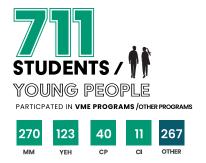


Vocational Major.

- 85 young people in Year 11/12 at 5 secondary settings were supported with 626 mentoring hours as they strengthened their career action plans, went on an industry excursion, and honed their job application and interview skills.
- **2. Youth Enterprise Hub (YEH)** Entrepreneurial skilled mentors supported a school-based VCAL Youth Entrepreneurship program.
- 50 young people were supported by VME mentors as they developed 4 micro-enterprise projects.
- 3. Community Partnerships (CP) Community-based mentoring for young people from the LGBTQIA+ and Somali communities, and coordination of a regional network Northern Youth Mentoring Network.
- 10 young people (18-24yrs) in 2 community partner settings worked 1:1 with mentors over 329 hours to support their transition to work.
- 2 Northern Youth Mentoring Network meetings were held for practitioners to share knowledge & practice, and make all-important local connections.
- **4. Creative Industries (CI)** Community-based vocational mentoring embedded in a Certificate III in Screen & Media
- **5. Other** Mentors participating in other INLLEN School to Work programs Industry Speaker Bank and RIJI

VME IMPACT 2021 – 2023

Over the past three years the VME has grown and expanded to support more schools, community organisations and young people being supported by a vocational mentor.











YEH





We gratefully thank our fabulous volunteer mentors, schools, community, and funding partners for their generous support, and look forward to continuing to build on these relationships in 2024.

For more information or to apply as a mentor. NEW website vme.org.au





Pathways to Creative Industries in the North

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership - Pathways to Creative Industries Project, in collaboration with the Northern College of the Arts and Technology (NCAT) and Youthworx, was developed to explore the issues for young people interested in making the transition from school to working as artists and creators.

The Project, successfully piloted in 2021, identified the potential of enabling young people to actively participate in both the design and the implementation of their exploration of transition to the creative industry.

In 2023, 17 young people enrolled in Arts and Design courses at NCAT engaged in the Project to co-design their investigation of pathways to work within the creative sector, which included the following activities.

- Investigative interviews with 18 industry professionals working in the sector.
- Site visits to community hubs and Arts precincts that support the development of emerging artists.
- 8 professional practice workshops to address the additional business and entrepreneurial skills required to work effectively in the industry.
- Vocational mentoring support for 11 Youthworx students completing Certificate 3 in Screen & Media.

Industry Engagement Event

At the conclusion of the Project, an Industry Engagement event was held on Wednesday, the 9th of August, at NCAT, Preston.

Over 250 creative secondary students from 11 secondary schools across the north attended a morning of career exploration to investigate the various pathways into the industry. The theme for the event was 'How do you get a start in the creative industries'.

15 established creative practitioners shared practical information, advice and valuable industry insights on how to get a start in their field.

Featuring industry panel discussions, breakout rooms (Music, Photography, Visual Arts & Design, Screen & Media) and student performances, the event brought together students, arts professionals, and the wider creative community to promote collaboration to support young emerging creatives.

inllen.org.au/creative-industries



Merri-bek TAC L2P Program

The TAC Merri-bek L2P Program assists disadvantaged Victorian learner drivers aged 16 to 20 without access to a supervising driver or vehicle to gain the 120 hours of driving experience required to apply for a probationary licence.

We take this opportunity to thank our program partners, including the TAC and VicRoads, for their funding and program support, which allows us to work with 60 young people each year.

In 2023, the Merri-bek L2P program supported 11 learner drivers in obtaining their probationary licences.

We love our L2P mentors and thank them for all their valuable time and support in 2023.

We would also like to acknowledge our local partners, Merri-bek City Council, for their ongoing support and encouragement, Victoria Police (Brunswick & Fawkner), that houses our two cars, and

AGA, which has been a long-time supporter, hosting our two vehicles as part of their fleet.

A big thank you to our recent car sponsors, the **Rotary Club** of Brunswick Tullamarine, the Merri-bek City Council, Sutton Tools and community organisation Asuria, who have generously supported the purchase of a new vehicle due for delivery in April 2024.

After three years, we sadly say farewell to our wonderful colleague, Laura Fugaro, Merri-bek L2P Administration Officer. The INLLEN team take this opportunity to thank Laura for all her hard work and dedication in keeping the L2P Program up and running over the past 3 years.

INLLEN welcomes Janelle Barnard, who is our new Merribek L2P Project Officer.

Volunteer Mentors Volunteer Hours Young People

1983







CONTACT US

Please contact us to find out more about our work or to get involved.

Inner Northern LLEN inc.

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@InnerNorthLLEN

Platforms & Socials



jobsforyouth.com.au





@InnerNorthJobsForYouth

Vocational Mentoring Exchange



vme.org.au



@Mentoring Matters VME





inllen

Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network Inc.