

Hume Global Learning Village

Hume Global Learning Village illustrates innovative action taken by a Council to extend learning opportunities throughout life in a diverse community through action integrated around the concept of a Global Learning Village.

Hume City is home to more than 150,000 people and spans vast rural and metropolitan areas. It is a young, culturally diverse community with low levels of literacy, school completion, employment and community engagement particularly within the southern region of the City.

Hume City Council has a Social Justice Charter that underpins its vision for Hume as a Learning Community. From this, Hume City Council has supported the development of the Hume Global Learning Village and has created built infrastructure to support learning in the City.

The Hume Global Learning Centre, opened in May 2003, and is a state of the art learning facility incorporating The Age Public Library, training rooms, computer learning facilities, AV equipment, internet access and a café. Funded by the Hume City Council with contributions from the Victorian State Government, The Age, Ford Motor Company and The Pratt Foundation, the Hume Global Learning Centre is the iconic centrepiece to the Learning Community Program. The centre provides access to informal, formal and community learning providers to deliver programs to the Hume community. More than 2800 student training hours is delivered per week in the centre.

The Visy Cares Learning Centre is a community learning and community services facility in Meadow Heights. Funded by Council with support from VisyCares and the Victorian State Government, this community managed centre provides community learning programs as well as maternal and child health services and occasional child care.

Council is also facilitating the development of a Koori Learning Centre and the Craigieburn Learning Centre, as additional learning infrastructure for Hume's large and diverse municipality.

The Hume Global Learning Village (HGLV)

The HGLV is a unique and wide ranging collaboration of learning providers in Hume City, comprising approximately 200 individuals, groups and organisations which form the Village. Members of the Village share Hume City Council's vision for a Learning Community in Hume and have assumed responsibility for making this a reality.

The Hume Global Learning Village is a connected network of formal (schools, universities, TAFEs), informal (tutors, coaches, community groups), non-formal (neighbourhood houses) and other learning providers, partnering to address the learning needs of the community. The Hume Global Learning Village members meet regularly, develop project and other partnerships, have a newsletter and website, advocate on behalf of the community and share expertise. Members receive support from Hume City Council in the form of staff acting as executive support to the Village. The Village is self determining, with representation from across the membership managing the activities of the Village.

The Hume Global Learning Village committee comprises of 15 people nominated from the membership. The Village also has the benefit of a 25 person Hume Global Learning Village Advisory Board. The Board represents senior people in the education, academia, business, research and community sectors. It is chaired by former Premier of Victoria, Hon John Cain. The Board provides unprecedented access to information, research, people and programs for the Village.

Learning Together Strategy

The Hume Global Learning Village members have collaborated with the community to develop their *Learning Together Strategy*. The Strategy is a practical program of initiatives and projects for 2004 – 2008, building on the activities of the Hume Global Learning Village and its constituent members. Hume City Council has resolved to undertake some of the 56 projects in Learning Together with other members – including universities, Kangan Batman TAFE, Greenvale Primary School and Gladstone Park Secondary College.

The *Learning Together Strategy* is designed to change perceptions of the community about learning and to foster their participation in learning in its broadest definition. Better integrated, learner-centric learning opportunities are made available through the relationships established and supported through the Village. The Village also offers other external partners, such as Government departments and philanthropic organisations, a stable, integrated and cohesive partnership with which to work.

Volunteering is a key learning strategy that the Hume Global Learning Village has adopted and this too is auspiced on behalf of the Village, by Hume City Council.

Hume City Council's role

Learning is considered the strategic initiative to address social and economic disadvantage in Hume and is embedded throughout Council's policy, budget and structures. Council has established a Learning Community Department, incorporating its library services and community learning development roles.

Council has identified that they have many staff already working in the learning agenda, including maternal and child health nurses, kindergarten teachers, librarians etc. Hume City Council has commenced engaging with these staff members to better leverage learning outcomes from these trusted professionals in the community.

As key advocates for the local community, Hume City Council has embraced the role of facilitator of the Hume Global Learning Village. As the local representatives of the community, Council has been able to broker the initiation of the Hume Global Learning Village, without perceived agendas.

For further information about the Hume Global Learning Village please visit the Hume Global Learning Village website at www.humegloballearning.vic.gov.au