



Community Changemakers Program 2025 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is the Community Changemakers Program?

The Community Changemakers Program (the Program) helps people develop leadership skills, build networks, and learn about local government.

We welcome people who are ready to learn, grow and make positive contributions in their community.

What can the Community Changemakers Program offer me?

A free opportunity to strengthen your leadership skills to incorporate into your personal and community life. The program will also provide you with the opportunity to discover ways to connect with and inspire your community and build valuable community and Council networks.

What experience/qualifications do I need to participate?

No formal qualifications are required - just a passion for your community and a desire to make a difference. Successful applicants will need to be involved with, or contribute to, the local community. This could be through volunteering, community groups, business, or local programs.

Do I need to be a Yarra Ranges resident to be eligible?

Yes, applicants must live within the Yarra Ranges region.

How many places are available?

There are 20 places available in the program.

Is there a cost to participate?

No, the program is free. It is fully funded and supported by Yarra Ranges Council.

All course materials and resources are provided.

What support is available for people living with a disability and/or those with families?

Yarra Ranges Council is committed to access, equity & inclusion for all.

In-person venues are fully accessible.

Parking is available at all locations.

Please speak to us if you have any requirements that would enable your participation, and we will do our best to accommodate.

How do I apply?

Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form online

Applications close: Sunday 11 May 2025

How are participants selected?

Applicants must meet eligibility criteria and are shortlisted against key selection criteria.

Applicants are asked to list community connections (i.e.: community groups, volunteering roles) and provide references during the application process.

How will I know if my application has been successful?

All applicants will be informed by email of the outcome of their application.

What is the Program format?

There are 8 sessions delivered (between July – November)

- 4 online sessions (Wednesday evenings)
- 4 in-person sessions (Saturdays)

Proposed dates

1. Wednesday 23 July (Online)
2. Saturday 2 August (In person)
3. Wednesday 6 August (Online)
4. Saturday 23 August (In person)
5. Wednesday 3 September (Online)

Term 3 school holidays (20 September – 5 October)

6. Saturday 11 October (In person)
7. Wednesday 22 October (Online)
8. Saturday 8 November (In person - Graduation)

Some optional homework activities may be assigned between sessions.

What happens if I cannot make every session?

Participants are selected on the basis they can attend all sessions, though allowances can be made for unavoidable absences.

Do I need access to a computer and internet?

Yes, a computer and internet access are required for online sessions.

What happens after the program finishes?

A graduation ceremony will be held at the final session where you will receive a certificate presented by Councillors and can network.

Graduates will be invited to stay connected through networking events, skill building opportunities and Council initiatives.