



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 2

March 2024

## RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

There have been many engaging activities across the school community from the Year 8 swim school program, Year 11 VET Work Ready Day, University link programs, Year 12 VET Work Placements to Study Skills sessions for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. It has been a jam-packed term so far for 2024.

### NAPLAN Testing

Years 7 and 9 will have engaged with their NAPLAN testing across Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. All NAPLAN testing elements have been online for the first time at Birrong Girls this year. NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. Students have completed assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

### International Women's Day - Friday 8 March 2024

Congratulations to all students who have been fostering this year's theme for International Women's Day: Inspire Inclusion. The first International Women's Day was started by the suffragettes in 1911 whom were very conscious of the fact that they were left behind politically, socially and economically. The suffragettes had vigorously campaigned for the right to vote in public elections in Europe since the late-19th Century. All women in Britain were finally given the right to vote in 1928. Suffrage for women in Australia was much earlier: in 1902 women over 21 could vote in elections for the federal parliament. While the vast majority of women across the world now have the right to vote, there is still much work to be done to ensure that no woman is left behind and all women deserve the right to be included. Our SRC members led the way with International Women's Day fundraising to support women in need.

Our Prefects and SRC leaders were extraordinary ambassadors for our school at the various IWD events linked to Parliament House. The Zonta International Women's Day breakfast was held at Bankstown Girls High School on Friday 8 March and attended by Alexis Acheampong and Ms Blue.

### Harmony Day

This year's theme is 'everyone belongs'. Australia is a multicultural country with nearly 50% of Australians born overseas or having at least one parent born overseas. Birrong Girls is proudly multicultural: 94% of our students are from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds representing a vibrant mix of over 40 different language groups. Harmony Day is a time to celebrate our school value of understanding, tolerance and inclusion on Thursday 21 March.



### Building Update

The new build is progressing well with the build team working on the three-storey building as well as the multi-purpose hall simultaneously. The construction site changes from day to day with all the work that is occurring.



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It has taken 4 weeks for the action to start inside the school. We are having the Top Quad and Tumbalong playground areas redesigned and modernised. Over the next couple of weeks there will be some noise from the machines that will be used to trim/remove trees and break up some of the concrete, retaining wall and hard surfaces. The following images were taken at the end of Week 5 looking at the Top Quad.



### **Unapproved leave**

Parents please note that leave cannot be approved for family holidays. In the event that parents do plan a holiday during term, it is vital that the school is informed at least two weeks in advance and that the student attends the office with a note from home clearly explaining the reasons for leave. Please be aware that unapproved leave will generate warning letters for students who miss assessment tasks or examinations in Years 10, 11 and 12.

### **Safe driving**

Parents please take care to follow the rules of the road when dropping off and picking up your child and ensure the safety of all our students. The safety of our students is of paramount concern to us all; however, reckless and bad driving at the front of the school continues to put our girls at risk. With the additional traffic of large trucks due to the new school upgrades there are greater risks if we are not driving to the specific road rules when navigating pick up and drop off. Remember that the car parks on the school grounds are for teachers only.

### **Coming Events**

We invite all parents to meet with the teachers on **Tuesday 26 March** for the parent/teacher interviews; our teachers greatly appreciate your interest and involvement. Taking an active interest in your daughter's education and developing a positive home-school relationship greatly assists your daughter achieve to the best of her ability.

At the start of Term 2 every student in the school will be asked to participate in the online Tell Them from Me survey. Student responses to the survey are completely anonymous and will provide general information about student engagement, wellbeing, aspirations, and effective teaching practices. The results from the survey will inform school planning and, in this way, ensure that we have the best teaching and learning practices to support your daughters as active and resilient learners. Please support the school in this initiative by encouraging your daughters to respond to the survey with care and honesty.

I extend to our community Ramadan Mubarak during the holy month of Ramadan, may the spirit of Ramadan illuminate your heart. Eid Mubarak to you and your families.

I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend our P&C meetings which are held in Week 5 of every term on the Wednesday at 5pm in the Senior Learning Centre at the school.

I invite you to contact the school to make an appointment with me (Tel: 9644 5057) if you have any issues that you wish to discuss about your daughter's education.

I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the school in the following pages.

Renee George  
**Relieving Principal**



## REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

We are fast approaching the end of Term 1, 2024 and there have already been many fantastic opportunities for our students so far this year. Staff and students have spent time recently reflecting on their moral purpose, thinking deeply about how we can all contribute to our school and the broader community through our diverse and unique personalities, gifts, and abilities. We celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March, with all our student leaders participating in various community events to mark the occasion. It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge some outstanding women and to reflect on what the day means to us all.

It is also a reminder of the strong connection between education and life outcomes for women. Every great success story is a series of little choices, moment by moment, that have an enormous impact on learning, life experiences and opportunities. There is such a strong connection between students' success at Birrong Girls and their active participation in learning. It is one choice at a time; attending school every day, being on time, being prepared, doing your best and getting involved. Many of our students are already thriving this year and we can't wait to see what they will achieve in 2024!

**Year 12** has participated in our annual *Study Skills* program, which reinforced the valuable study tools required that will continue to support their preparation for future assessments, examinations, and tertiary studies beyond the walls of Birrong. The VET Hospitality and Business Services students have participated in their week of Work Placement. It was a great time for students to experience the world of work and put their skills into action. Congratulations to our school captain, Catherine, for making it to the final round of the MWLP VET Awards for her outstanding work placement experience in VET Entertainment. We are so proud of you!



**Year 11** students have commented on how much work they are doing during the early stage of their journey towards the HSC in 2024. The Year 11 VET (Vocational Education Training) students completed their

'Work Ready' day to prepare themselves for the 70 hours of mandatory work placement that will begin during Term 2 for the Retail Cert III, Business Services Cert III and the Hospitality Cert II students. They have also participated in their *Study Skills*

program, where students were supported in gaining greater insights into effective study habits. Selected Year 11 students have continued supporting the Year 7 students in the Peer Support Program this term and will continue to provide support to their Year 7 groups into Term 2. A special congratulations to Sammi who was the worthy recipient of the University of Sydney Academic Award at our presentation day last year and was officially recognised in the beautiful Great Hall at the University of Sydney last month. A further congratulations to Alexis who received a Zonta Citizenship Award at Zonta's Annual International Women's Day Breakfast in partnership with Bankstown Girls High School. These students are such outstanding representatives of our school!



**Year 10** has recently participated in their *Study Skills* program which introduces effective study techniques and time management skills as well as providing students with tips to build their confidence and increase their motivation to learn. Congratulations also to our first, second and third place winners of the Year 10 Henrietta Wooster speeches finals – Inez, Kayla and Aurora. The topic for 2024 was: "The best things in life are free".



**Year 9** students are enjoying having a greater variety of subjects as they begin their elective courses. They are also scheduled to participate in their study skills program this term which aims to develop skills to organise their home learning and maximise their school achievement. As the year progresses there will be increased opportunity for Year 9 students to take on some of the leadership roles in the school's extra-curricular clubs and teams. For Year 9, NAPLAN testing took place during Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. This testing provides vital information for your child's teachers so they can cater for individual student needs.

**Year 8** students have settled back into the school routine, and they will also participate in the study skills course this term which helps them to develop good learning habits at home that complement the school learning. We are thrilled that many of our Year 8 students are the most active participants in the school's Theatresports club. Find out more about how you can get involved in this weekly activity through Ms Wright and Ms Waters in the English Faculty! It's a brilliant initiative.

**Year 7** students have settled in well and have been mentored by Year 11 peer support leaders. The peer support sessions organised by Ms Roberts aim to increase the awareness, support and connectedness Year 7 students have with their new surroundings and to ensure that they understand the expectations we have of students at Birrong GHS. For Year 7, NAPLAN testing took place during Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. This testing provides vital information for your child's teachers so they can cater for individual student needs. It was wonderful to welcome so many of our students and parents/carers to our Year 7 Welcome BBQ earlier this term. It was a wonderful way for our community



of staff, students and their families to meet in a relaxed, informal way; having a chat and eating together. A fabulous afternoon making connections.



### HSC Minimum Standards

Students will meet the HSC minimum standard through short online tests in reading, writing and numeracy. Tests can be taken in Years 10, 11 or 12 and will be again organised here at school. Students can take the test more than once if they need to. We will provide more advice about achieving the minimum standards throughout the year.

### Homework and Revision

A reminder that all students are expected to complete homework. This includes formal work set by teachers as well as revision and wide reading. The following guidelines indicate the number of hours students in various years should set aside for homework:

- Years 7 and 8: 2 hours each night
- Years 9 and 10: 2-3 hours each night
- Years 11 and 12: 3-4 hours each night

This type of commitment leads to success through school and beyond. Remember: every huge success story is the result of a series of little choices.



We wish all our families a safe and happy holiday break.

Ms Andrews, Ms Blue, and Ms Winchcombe (Rel.)  
**Deputy Principals**

### SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE) AT BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

NSW public schools offer special religious education (scripture) and special education in ethics, delivered by approved providers wherever available. During enrolment, you can choose a special religious education option for your child from the school's available approved providers. You can withdraw your child from special religious education by selecting alternative meaningful activities, or special education in ethics if it is available. You can update your preference by writing to the school. Visit the **department's website** for more information about religion and ethics.

At Birrong Girls High School, SRE is delivered in 60-minute lessons in a 5-week block each term on Fridays during period 3 to timetabled year groups.

At Birrong Girls High School, SRE is provided at our school through the following providers:

- **Buddhist Faith**

The Hwa Tsang Monastery has been accredited to provide SRE in the Buddhist faith to primary and high schools for the NSW Department of Education since 1997.

For more information, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence please visit the following site and selecting 'Education', 'Special Religious Education' and then 'Syllabus and Approach':

- <http://www.hwatsangmonastery.org.au/>

- **Combined Protestant Christian**  
Combined Protestant Christian Churches Special Religious Education (SRE) is being provided through BLAST (Bankstown Local Area Scripture Team). A number of Approved Providers of SRE that meet NSW Department of Education requirements have arranged to partner together to deliver a Combined Christian SRE curriculum. The list of providers represent various Protestant denominations:

- Christian Community Churches of Australia  
<https://cccaust.org/>
- Uniting Church in Australia (NSW Synod)  
<https://nswact.uca.org.au/>
- Presbyterian Church of Australia (NSW)  
<https://pynsw.org.au/>
- Australian Christian Churches  
<https://www.acc.org.au/>
- Churches of Christ in NSW & ACT  
<https://ccnswact.org.au/>
- Anglican Diocese of Sydney  
<https://sydneyanglicans.net/>
- Baptist Union of NSW  
<https://nswactbaptists.org.au/>

The name of the curriculum is called Think Faith. Information regarding the curriculum can be found at <http://thinkfaith.com.au>.

- **Islamic Charities Projects Association**

The Islamic Charity Projects Association (ICPA) is accredited by the NSW Department of Education to teach Islamic Special Religious Education in NSW public schools. The ICPA works under the guidelines of Darulfatwa - the Islamic High Council of Australia.

For more information about this provider, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence please visit the following sites:

- <http://www.icpa.org.au/>
- [www.darulfatwa.org.au](http://www.darulfatwa.org.au)

- **Islamic Council of NSW**

The Islamic Council of NSW is authorised through the Department of Education to provide Islamic Special Religious Education lessons in NSW Public Schools. ISRE teachers are provided with approved teaching materials and pedagogy.

For more information about this provider, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence please visit the following site:

- <http://www.isre.org.au/scope-year-7-year-12/>

Ms Blue  
**Scripture Coordinator**

## CAREERS NEWS

Dear parents/guardians/students,

I would like to introduce myself and open the channel of communication between the community and careers.



My name is Ms Nicky Shinas, and I am the current Careers Adviser at Birrong Girls High School. I am situated in the library and available to answer all your important questions and concerns about your young person's future pathways.

My email contact details are: [nicky.shinas@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nicky.shinas@det.nsw.edu.au) should you require any assistance with their pathway.

A small reminder for all students in Years 9-12 to see me if they do not have the code for their GC Careers page. This is a platform for students only, and I advise that every student joins their cohort's GC page as valuable and important information is shared via this platform.

I look forward to communicating with you all over the next few years. Aiming high to achieve a successful future for your young person.

### Careers Facts

I would like to congratulate the 2023 cohort for their excellent achievements during their final year.

We have had amazing results and university placements across NSW.

Through hard work, dedication, planning and early offer schemes we placed 15 students at Macquarie University, 39 students at Western Sydney campuses across NSW, 16 students at UTS, 9 students at UNSW and so far, one confirmed placement at the University of Sydney studying a Bachelor/Masters in Pharmacy.

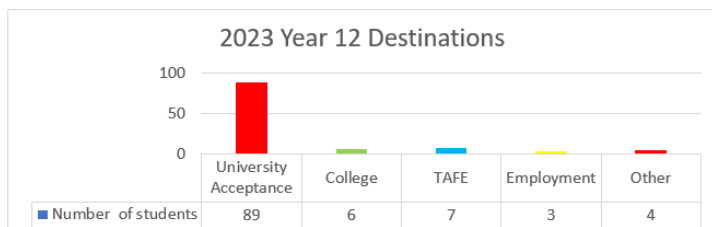
These are amazing results for students who were aiming for university pathways in 2023.

We have had many successful TAFE applications with career opportunities in Youth Work, Pathology



(blood collection and sterilization), Dental Assisting and Beauty and Laser course to name a few.

Here is a snippet of student placements in 2024. There were 109 students in the Year 12, 2023 cohort and these are their destination acceptances.



### Year 12 2024

Welcome to Careers News Year 12 cohort of 2024.

Google classrooms are for students, make sure you are in this classroom. I will be providing you with valuable information throughout the year. This is the fastest and most efficient way to follow and stay in touch with all future pathways and news.

Year 12 Fast Forward students had the privilege of attending a university day at Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus on 21 February. Students were provided with a tour, lunch and lectures in preparation for their future at university. A combination of 78 schools were welcomed and over 1200 students attended this rewarding experience as part of the Fast Forward program which they began when they were in Year 9.

Year 12 will be involved in Careers talks early next term. These sessions will be hosted by Ms Shinas and will run in the afternoons. The time will be announced in the next few weeks. These sessions will help Year 12 understand the UAC process and how applications are made to universities. Early applications, EAS and SRS as well as scholarships will be discussed. All students are welcome to attend as they are critical sessions supporting the transition from school to future pathways.



### Year 11

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who are involved in the very successful U@Uni program lead by our UTS ambassadors. This program has been running for 6 successful years and we are pleased to open this pathway up to future UTS students.

UNSW offered nine Year 11 students the opportunity to take part in the UNSE Gateway Leaders Program. This was an exciting opportunity for students to travel to UNSW and represent the school in critical thinking and skills programs. The workshops will focus on harnessing the leadership strengths of students.

Congratulations to Sarah Ali, Ferdos Haidar, Namariq Al-Janabi, Haajar Enad, Sherine Dennaoui, Shereen Ibrahim, Roukaya Ramlawie, Genevieve Balden and Madison Balden who applied and were selected for the program.

The Gateway program was hosted on the UNSW campus in Kensington on 19 March.

## Year 10

This year I will be delivering careers classes to Year 10. We will focus on pathways, subject selections, resumes and job applications. Students will be informed about Leadership Week and work experience.

Students involved in the Fast Forward program with Western Sydney University will continue their exciting program in 2024.

Sydney University is offering a workshop for Year 10 Work Education students to partake in university lectures and tutorials. This program is called Future Focus and will be running on 3 April 2024. This will be an interesting and informative day out for our students.

Students looking for part time jobs can use the GC platform, where valuable information is available. How to register for USI and Tax File numbers and resume templates are available to use as a guide to building a resume.

## Year 9

Year 9 students can join the Fast Forward program, led by Western Sydney University. We have been in a partnership with this university for 8 successful years. Successful student applicants will be engaged in this program from Year 9 right through to the end of Year 12. The selection criteria is specific and Ms Shinas will liaise with the Year Adviser, Ms Zomaya, to support future candidates.

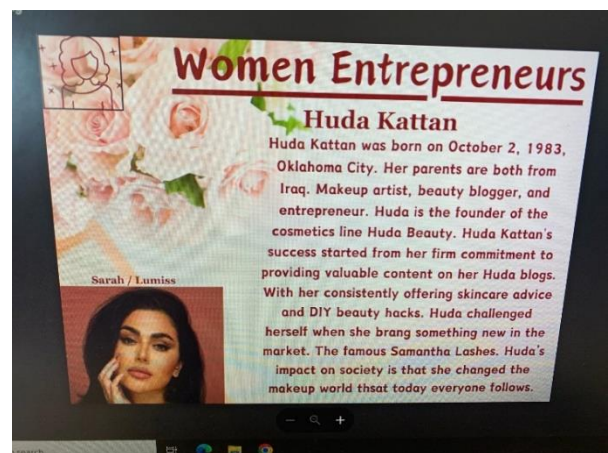
Please make sure you're on the Year 9 Careers page for news and information.

Ms Shinas  
Careers Adviser



## Social Science celebration of International Women's Day.

Year 10 **Commerce** completed a task on well-known female entrepreneurs. They learned about their achievements, contributions, challenges overcome and the impact on the business world and society. The task motivated students on how to be resilient and with hard work and commitment they can be one of the well-known entrepreneurs in future.



Students in Social Science learned and researched the important role of women leaders in society in the areas of human and environmental wellbeing, business entrepreneurship and law. Students in



**Legal Studies** learned of the important role the women in international law and the development of contemporary Human Rights.

Students also learned about the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the important role played by the First Lady of US Eleanor Roosevelt as the first appointed Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights. She played a fundamental role in the development of the UNDHR, an important international law which has been an important source of law in shaping the development of the Australian legal system. Australia's signing of the UNDHRs led to the creation of the Australian Human Rights Commission and other important pieces of legislations which protect rights and reduces discrimination, such as the Sex Discrimination Act and the Native Title Act.



Students in Legal Studies watched the video, "The Women who shaped the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

In **Business Services** our Year 11 students used their business software skills to research important women in the business industry. They created posters using their CANVAS software skills and knowledge of the importance of generating different documents for different purposes and audiences. The girls developed their laminating skills and practiced laminating their posters to put them up to display outside the Social Science staffroom.



### **Retail Services**

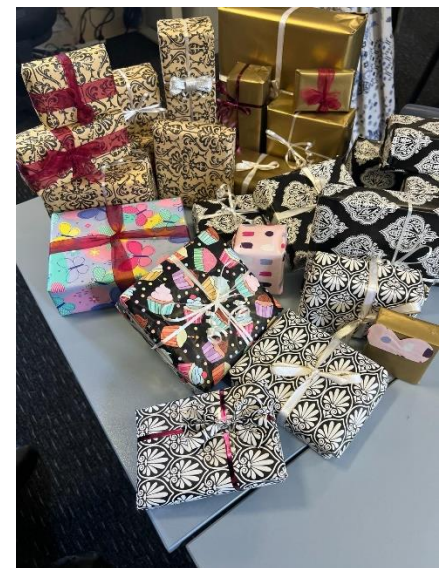
Year 12 Retail Services students learned how to use Point-of-Sale (POS). In a simulated store environment students learned how to add items to the POS, how to scan the items, give returns and refunds and to organise a cash float at the beginning of the day. These important Retail skills help the students gain real life experiences which will be beneficial for them in working in the Retail industry.







Year 11 Retail Services students learned a very important skill of gift wrapping and displaying gifts in an attractive manner which will be appealing to customers. For some students it was their first experience to wrap gifts and they thoroughly enjoyed and learned this important skill. This will be beneficial for all students who are planning to work in Retail and will also be helpful in their daily lives.



By: Ms Tariq and Ms Elmir  
**Social Science Faculty**

**BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR**  
*For your diary / noticeboard*

**March:**

- Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup>
- Year 9 Study Skills, p2
  - Year 8 Study Skills, p3
  - Year 7 Study Skills, p4
  - Parent/Teacher interviews 3-5pm

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup>

- Good Friday – Public Holiday



**April:**

- Monday, 1<sup>st</sup>
- Easter Monday – Public Holiday

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup>

- Parent Assembly for award recipients, 8:30am

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup>

- Last day of Term 1

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*Enjoy the school holidays!*

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Monday, 29<sup>th</sup>

- School Development Day for staff only

Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup>

- School resumes, all years

**May:**

- Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup>
- School Cross Country, Jim Ring Reserve, Birrong

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Yr11 & 12 Ancient History excursion

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Year 11 VET Retail Services Work Placement  
6<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> May

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Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup>

- Yr10 English excursion

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup>

- Zone Cross Country at Kelso Park

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup>

- Yr11/12 Studies of Religion excursion

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Year 8 Geography excursion

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup>

- Vocal Group concert – Town Hall

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup>

- Year 10 exams - English am, PDHPE pm
- P&C meeting, 5pm in the Senior Learning Centre

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup>

- Year 10 exams - Maths am, Science pm

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup>

- Year 10 exams - History/Geography am
- Year 10 FT incursion



**BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

Parents are invited to attend the  
**P & C MEETING**

at Birrong Girls High School  
(in the Senior Learning Centre)  
on Wednesday 29 May 2024

at 5pm

Please register your attendance  
by phoning the school office

# Year 12 Environmental Engineering Evening



Thursday 4 April 2024

4pm-6pm

J03, Engineering Precinct



**Environmental engineering is crucial for developing sustainable solutions to address pressing environmental challenges, ensuring the health and well-being of both ecosystems and human populations for generations to come.**

**Join us as we celebrate the debut of the University of Sydney's Bachelor of Engineering Honours (Environmental Engineering) degree.**

Students currently in Year 12 will be granted exclusive access to our cutting-edge laboratories, where they can observe the transformative effects of environmental engineering through real-world demonstrations. They will have the privilege of engaging with experienced environmental engineers actively shaping the field. Attendees can delve deeper into our pioneering degree program, which will commence in 2025.

Light refreshments will be served. Due to laboratory space\* considerations, numbers are strictly limited and registration is essential.

\*To enter the labs, attendees must wear suitable leg covering and enclosed shoes.

**Register:**  
<https://forms.office.com/r/Q5r9hT8HBG>

**Enquiries:**  
[engineering.external@sydney.edu.au](mailto:engineering.external@sydney.edu.au)

**Date:** Thursday 4 April 2024

**Time:** 4pm-6pm

**Location:** J03\*, Engineering Precinct

\*Building J03 is located in the Engineering Precinct, on the corner of Blackwattle Lane and Maze Crescent, Darlington.

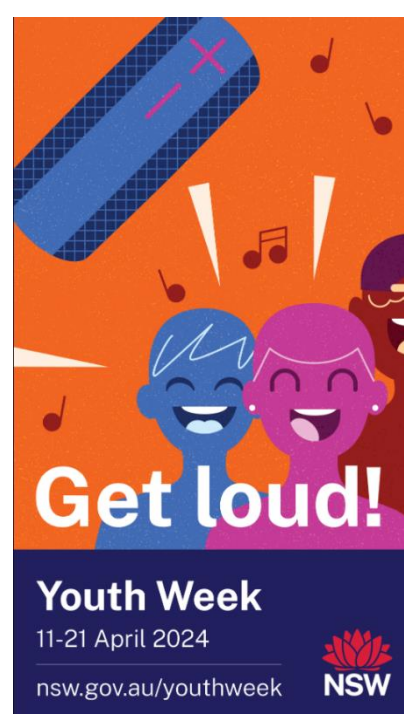


## CBCity Youth Week 2024

Youth Week is a week-long celebration organised by young people, for young people, held in communities across the state in early April each year.

2024 Youth Week will be held from Thursday 11 April to Sunday 21 April and the theme is: Express. Empower. Get loud!

Check out their website [cb.city/youthweek](http://cb.city/youthweek)



# Think, Eat and Move

- 🖥️ **FREE** online program
- 😎 13-17yr old's in Sydney
- 📞 One-on-one health coaching
- 🥦 Healthy eating tips
- 📺 Screen time ideas
- 😎 Learn healthy habits!

**FREE**  
resources!



**FREE program for  
13-17yr olds  
and their families  
on healthy eating and  
physical activity.**

**FREE  
PRIZES**



*Think, Eat  
and Move*

**Sign up NOW!**

[www.thinkeatandmove.org](http://www.thinkeatandmove.org)

# THE FACTS ABOUT VAPING

Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, often called 'vapes', are electronic devices designed to deliver vapourised liquids into the lungs. There are many different styles of vapes available and they can be difficult to spot.

The main ingredient in vapes is propylene glycol, vegetable glycerine or glycerol, and they often also contain nicotine, flavours and other chemicals. Vapes may contain harmful chemicals that aren't listed on the pack.

The biggest misunderstanding about vapes is that they are harmless compared to cigarettes. This is not true. *Vapes are not safe.*

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE VAPING?



Many vapes contain nicotine making them **very addictive**



The nicotine in 1 vape can **= 50 cigarettes**



Young people who vape are **3 times** as likely to take up smoking



Vaping has been linked to **serious lung disease**



Vapes can contain the same **harmful chemicals** found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and bug spray



Vapes come in a variety of designs and styles and can be **easy to conceal**



Do you know what they're vaping?  
Get the evidence\* and facts at [health.nsw.gov.au/vaping](https://health.nsw.gov.au/vaping)

\*All statements are backed by evidence which can be found on the website

