

NELLEN Blog

- Are you a young person aged 18-25 living in North-east Victoria?
- Would you like to share your experience of making the transition to work and 'adult life' in a regional area?
- Would you like to write a regular blog for the website of the North East Local Learning and Employment Network (NELLEN), charting your progress towards secure employment in your chosen field?

If so, we would like to invite you to be a NELLEN Champion and contribute a regular blog to our website www.nellen.org.au

Why write a blog for NELLEN?

You are invited to write a regular blog to give us—your readers—a taste of your experiences as a student, job seeker or young worker starting out.

We are interested in your experiences while you study, look for work or start out in work in a regional area. How have you surmounted any difficulties? What interactions have helped you along the way?

To help you write honestly of your experiences, we will publish your blog online anonymously.

We hope that other young people might be interested to read your words and be inspired by your experience. We also hope that by sharing your story with a wider audience, we might be able to lobby for greater funding and opportunities for young local people like you.

What voices are we seeking?

We seek a range of voices from young people with diverse backgrounds and experiences—those who are indigenous, are from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, have a disability, are living out of home, are young parents, or are studying in alternative educational settings.

We are interested in *your* perspective—whether you're at the start, middle or end of your studies, juggling study with other commitments such as work or parenting, looking for secure work in your chosen field, or starting out in your career.

Starting your blog

We would like to publish a new blog from our small team of young bloggers every month, so aim to submit a new blog every two to four months.

In your first blog, you might want to write about general, introductory things—if you are happy to share that information with us.

Here are some starter questions:

- If you have engaged in a course of study, why are you interested in this field, and why did you choose to study with your education provider?
- What aspects of learning have you enjoyed?
- How have you managed to fit in your studies with other commitments and family life?
- If you are working, why are you interested in this type of work, and why did you choose to work for this employer?
- What aspects of the work have you enjoyed?

Tips for writing your blog

- You may wish to choose a general theme for each blog and may gain ideas from this word cloud below. This word cloud represents the topics raised by young people at a series of youth forums held across Victoria in 2016 (Youth Affairs Council Victoria, 2017). The topics in larger font were mentioned the most:



- While we do want you to write of your personal experiences, we would prefer that you reflect on your transition journey and avoid writing in diary form about what's happening on the day, any personal angst or private thoughts of a confessional nature.

Steps

1. Complete and return the Blogger / Champion Record Form (incl. bank account details).
2. Complete and return the 'Statement by a supplier' form to NELLEN.
3. Aim to write a blog of about 500–700 words every two to four months.
4. You may want to ask one or two people you trust to read your blog and give you feedback, so be prepared to revise your blog before submitting it.
5. Submit your blog as a Microsoft Word document either by email to communications@nellen.org.au or by USB.
6. We will proofread your blog and may edit it for length or style.
7. We will pay you \$50 for each published blog.

Who is NELLEN?

The North East Local Learning and Employment Network (NELLEN) is one of 31 Local Learning and Employment Networks in Victoria. NELLEN's core objective is to improve education and employment participation, engagement, attainment and transition for all young people aged 10 to 19 years across the Indigo, Alpine and Towong shires and the City of Wodonga.

If you need more information, please contact: Naomi Peters, NELLEN Communications Officer
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Reference

Youth Affairs Council Victoria. (2017). *Turning Ideas into Action: Youth Forums 2016: Summary Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.yacvic.org.au/assets/Documents/YACVic-Rural-Youth-Forums-2016-Report-Feb17-2.pdf>