La Trobe a partner in new Raising Expectations website for Care Leavers

Authored by Maria Rosales
11 Jun 2020

With young people predicted to be hardest-hit by the economic impact of COVID-19, Raising Expectations is continuing to prioritise access to vocational and higher education for young Victorians with an experience of out-of-home care.

Officially launched last week, the new Raising Expectations website makes it easier than ever for young people to find information about going to university or TAFE.

“We know that education transforms lives, and for young people with a care experience, going to university and TAFE may seem out of reach. Raising Expectations is making vocational and higher education a reality for this group of young people,” said Minister for Higher Education, the Hon. Gayle Tierney MP, who helped to launch the site.

La Trobe University has been a partner of the Raising Expectations project since 2015, which aims to increase the awareness of vocational and higher education amongst young people in care, care leavers and their supporters.

Associate Professor Andrew Harvey, Director at the Centre for Higher Education Equity and Diversity Research (CHEEDR) said that La Trobe offers a range of supports to students who have spent time in out-of-home care through their ‘Higher Education for Care Leavers Strategy’.

“La Trobe University is proud to support care leaver students across all of our Victorian campuses, and the contribution they make to our culture and programs is invaluable,” A/Professor Harvey said.

The new Raising Expectations website includes a new chat feature as well as a mobile number that young people can text to communicate directly with a Raising Expectations team member. There are also FAQs and stories from care leavers about their higher education experience and journey into fulfilling employment.

One such story is that of La Trobe Master of Management student, Georgia, who spent time in foster and kinship care. She says: “I am on the board of a local Not-for-Profit that has a focus on youth and I believe both my degree, and experiences as a young person, help me give back to the organisation and my community.”
For more information about opportunities and support for Care Leavers, visit Raising Expectations or La Trobe’s Care Leavers webpage.