



Belong Believe Become

Waymaker

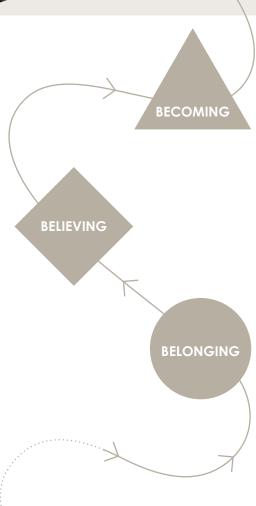
**OPENING 2025** 



Waymaker is a flexible pathway for young people who have disengaged from school due to social emotional reasons. Some young people struggle to engage with school, so we've created a highly adaptable and personalised program that provides the extra support for students right at their point of need.

Waymaker is a place where young people can **BELONG** - where they are known, loved and connected in community. It is a space where young people come to **BELIEVE** - where they build their courage, confidence and begin to tell a new story. And it is a journey they go on to **BECOME** - where they are empowered to grow into the fullness of who God has designed them to be.

We make it our mission to see every young person belong, believe and become so that they can live a flourishing life full of hope and purpose.



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We offer this unique pathway because every young person is created in God's image, is of infinite value and worth, and has a unique path to walk towards flourishing.

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### What makes Waymaker different?

Our aim is to ensure that every young person continues learning and growing in a holistic way, despite the struggles that they face, enabling them to return to school and to continue building towards a flourishing future.

- Waymaker offers a safe, stable and flexible learning environment for young people who need it the most.
- Our staff are attentive and highly trained ensuring that every learner is connected into a deep and caring community.
- The learning spaces are designed with calmness and flexibility in mind, where support, relationships and emotional regulation can be the focus of every interaction.

- The class sizes are intentionally small which ensures that every learner is continuously connected, cared for, and growing.
- Every learner has their own personalised map, learning goals and tailored teaching strategies, where growth is captured by badges, stories, and artefacts.
- Our approach combines traumasensitive practices with evidencebased strategies whilst utilising the most effective learning technology available.
- We prioritise accelerated growth in literacy and numeracy alongside high engagement through working on personal passions and creative projects.
- We partner closely with learners, parents, caregivers and families to achieve the best possible outcomes for all.

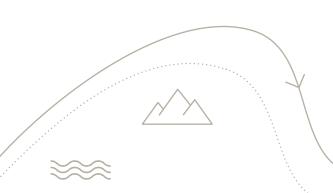
# What does a Waymaker day look like?

A day in the life of a Waymaker learner is consistent yet flexible.

Each day has a regular routine that is highly customisable so that young people know what to expect and each day can be adapted to meet the changing needs of every learner. Every day begins and ends with a Waymaker circle that promotes a sense of belonging and belief amongst the students.

The morning session focuses on character, individual coaching and core skills in literacy and numeracy, before moving into learning based on individual passions. Each day ends with an emphasis on real-world, collaborative projects which aim to help young people finish strong with a sense of hope and purpose.

Waymaker learners also have the option to go on expeditions out into the community to build their confidence as they learn to navigate the world. Lunch and snacks are provided and shared together to foster connection and belonging.





### Who is Waymaker for?

Waymaker is for students who have disconnected from school and have become disengaged in their learning. Our students are deemed incapable of learning in a more traditional school environment due to a diagnosed mental health condition or other documented social and emotional difficulties.

A typical Waymaker student will have a history of difficulty attending school, usually due to a diagnosed and significant mental health condition related to anxiety, depression or posttraumatic stress that is currently being treated by an appropriate health practitioner. The loss of learning and friendship-forming opportunities may have exacerbated how hard it is for the young person to return to school.

As this journey is a partnership, it is important that both the student and the family are willing to participate in the practices of the Waymaker program to ensure that the tailored support offered enables the young person to navigate their way through both the tough times and the triumphs successfully.





#### **More Information**

Should you require additional information about the Waymaker program, please contact our Enrolments team or visit us online www.flinders.vic.edu.au/carrumdowns/waymaker

# What are the enrolment criteria for Waymaker?

Waymaker will launch in 2025 for students in Grade 6 to Year 8. We will then add additional Year levels:

2025: Grade 6 to Year 8

**2026:** Grade 6 to Year 9

**2027 and beyond:** Grade 6 to Year 10

To enrol in Waymaker, parents and caregivers need to provide:

- a documented diagnosis
  of a relevant mental health
  disorder (anxiety, depression
  and post-traumatic stress
  disorder as listed in the
  DSM-V)
- documented evidence of ongoing, individual intervention by a mental health practitioner or school counsellor
- a documented history of the frequency, duration and intensity of the mental health disorder in the home, school and community
- a documented history of the impact of the mental health disorder on the student's educational progress functioning and their emotional wellbeing
- a list of recommended strategies (provided by their mental health practitioner) for addressing the student's needs at school.

The Waymaker application form contains full details of enrolment requirements on our website.

#### Who is Waymaker not for?

The main barriers to learning for Waymaker students are social and emotional, rather than cognitive or behavioural. The program is not designed for students with a history of cognitive impairment or disruptive, aggressive, or antisocial behaviour.