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# LEAP: Learn, Engage, Act, Perform

Vision Australia’s LEAP is an innovative employability and leadership program designed specifically for young people who want to learn new skills and gain confidence to achieve their personal and professional goals. LEAP is an inclusive program that is tailored to each person’s needs and goals.

Traditional education and disability employment services often do not have the expertise in vision loss that young people require to learn new skills in a meaningful way. Vision Australia are experts in vision loss services and support and understand the unique challenges that young people can face.

## The 2021 program

The LEAP program will build a young person’s employability by supporting them to achieve goals across the following domains:

* Choice and control
* Work
* Social and community participation
* Relationships
* Daily living
* Lifelong learning
* Health and wellbeing

Participants graduate with important skills in emotional intelligence, relationships, conversational skills, personal presentation, and technology. They also take away tangible resources including a personalised resume and cover letter which is coupled with their new skills in job searching, networking, and job interviewing.

LEAP is a nine-month program running from February to November 2021 and is designed for teenagers aged 14-17 years who are blind or have low vision. Participants can live anywhere in Australia.

Check out our [website](https://www.visionaustralia.org/services/children/leap/register) for additional information and testimonials from our LEAP graduates. You can also watch an audio described video of impressions from last year’s participants [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrP_QlafeOw).

For more information or to register your interest, please complete the [registration form here](https://www.visionaustralia.org/services/children/leap/register) or email [LEAP@visionaustralia.org](file:///C:\Users\cnolan\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\S6XFOTJ0\LEAP@visionaustralia.org).

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Chloe, Vision Australia client

## Key dates

**Registrations close:** January 14 2021

**Program starts:** February 2021

**Individual meetings:** Will be booked between you and your Vision Australia service provider

**Group meetings:** The last Thursday of every month for nine months

**Magic Moments Camp**: Held in Collaroy, Sydney for 5 days in July 2021.

## Time commitment per month

The program is designed to work outside of school hours.

* 90-minute one-on-one monthly sessions with a Vision Australia service provider.
* 60-minute group monthly meeting with fellow LEAP 2021 participants and Vision Australia facilitators.

## Program Delivery

The program is delivered by Vision Australia service providers, either face-to-face or Telehealth (via Zoom). The primary service provider is typically an occupational therapist but can be from another discipline depending on your child’s needs.

## Cost

* Appropriate NDIS funding can be used for this program.
* Magic Moment Camp is a separate cost of $1497. Depending on your circumstances, if you are unable to meet this cost please talk to us about other available options.



Maxwell,

Vision Australia client

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## Monthly schedule

### February

Activities

* Baseline Survey, Myer Briggs/Jung Survey and discussion about your strengths, preferences, things that energize you and how this translates to your daily life.
* Boost your tech skills: emailing, calendar management, social media platforms.

Outcomes

* Understanding the type of career you may be suited to.
* How your personality impacts on the way you think.
* Connect with your fellow LEAP participants through technology, email etiquette, time management and planning.

### March

Activities

* Watch motivational speaker Simon Sinek’s video on millennial’s in the workplace. Followed by discussion and questions about the video and your mentor preferences.

Outcomes

* Understanding how employers may see you as the “younger generation” and what this means.
* Understanding what you need in a mentor and why this is important.

### April

Activities

* Learn about your project activity and brainstorm ideas.
* Introduction of the “elevator pitch” and demonstrate how to be proactive in life.

Outcomes

* Creating a plan for your project and what supports you might need to achieve the goals.
* Understanding how to showcase your talents.

### May

Activities

* Complete your project plan, planning for Magic Moments camp in July.
* Formalise, record, and send your elevator pitch for evaluation by your mentor and program coordinator.

Outcomes

* Understanding how a coach or a mentor can assist you to navigate your life choices.
* Articulating your needs for the Magic Moments camp.
* Develop an understanding of what a brand is, what your brand is, and how you see yourself and how others see you.

### June

Activities

* Voice Coaching.
* Branding continued.

Outcomes

* How to make an impact with your voice and how to like your voice, know when and how to speak in groups and public presentations.

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### July

Activities

* Technology session: learning the basics of document formatting and web platform search.
* Magic Moments Camp, located at the Collaroy Centre, Collaroy, Sydney.

Outcomes

* Skills to develop your own resume, job searching skills.
* During the camp you will learn about overcoming fears, emotional resilience, business skills, financial literacy, what it means to be a leader, and meet your fellow LEAP participants in person.
* Have fun!

### August

Activities

* Networking, resumes, cover letters, job advertisements and mock interviews.

Outcomes

* Understanding networking.
* Preparing a resume and cover letter.
* Undertaking a mock interview.
* Personalised feedback from Vision Australia employment consultants.

### September

No commitment due to exams.

### October

Activities

* Emotional intelligence: reflecting on priorities, values, and behavior.
* Preparing for final presentations.
* Technology session: use and creation of PowerPoint Presentations

Outcomes

* Getting to know yourself and liking yourself a little bit more.
* Confidently “driving” PowerPoint Presentation with the use of your accessible technology

### November

Delivery of final presentation (via Zoom) to fellow participants, family, friends and Vision Australia staff. This is the culmination of everything the participants have learnt during their time in the LEAP Program.

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Amish, Vision Australia client