

Clemente Fitzroy

Education that changes lives

Get involved

If you or someone you know would benefit from studying with Clemente Fitzroy, please contact our Clemente Program Coordinator on 0403 214 465 or clemente@ccam.org.au.

To enquire about becoming a volunteer Learning Partner and to help us provide a free education program that changes lives, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator on 9926 5699 or volunteer@ccam.org.au.

CatholicCare does not receive government funding for the Clemente Fitzroy Program. To enquire about sponsorship, or to make a donation, please contact our Fundraising Team on 9287 5517 or fundraising@ccam.org.au.

'Clemente has opened up a whole new world to me. It has provided a nurturing and supportive environment for learning and has inspired me to achieve personal growth.' – Daryl, Clemente student

About us

Relationships are at the heart of why CatholicCare exists. We help people to build positive relationships, and repair connections when needed.

CatholicCare is the social service agency of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Diocese of Sale. We provide a range of counselling, education, community and pastoral services.

We support all people regardless of their religious belief or background.

Our vision is for a stronger, more resilient and inclusive society - where everyone can reach their potential and enjoy 'life to the full'.

Contact us

St Mary of the Cross Centre
23 Brunswick Street
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Clemente Fitzroy is delivered in partnership with Australian Catholic University.



CatholicCare acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Victoria, and pays respect to Elders past and present.

- Greater Melbourne
- Geelong
- Gippsland

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It takes courage to change, take a risk and move in a new and better direction. The challenge can be hard, especially if you feel isolated or hassled by basic things like housing and health.

The Clemente Fitzroy Program offers free, tertiary education to people who are experiencing significant disadvantage. People who have a physical disability or mental illness, or are recovering from alcohol or drug issues. They may feel they have limited options, but they want to take control of their life, and choose a healthier path.

Each Clemente student is matched with a volunteer learning partner who provides one-on-one academic support and encouragement through the process of learning.

It is through this collaborative and supportive approach that Clemente offers more than academic achievement.

Students gain hope, a sense of well-being, and renewed self-respect and determination.

For some students, Clemente can lead to further University study.

For others, Clemente opens doors to new possibilities.

The course

The course comprises one unit per semester over four semesters, and each unit runs for 13 weeks. Subjects include philosophy, history, literature, politics and art, and successful completion of the four units gives students a Certificate of Liberal Studies and allows them to gain entry in to any Undergraduate BA program at the Australian Catholic University.

Lectures are delivered at our Fitzroy office and Learning Partner sessions are delivered at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne.

Become a student

Clemente Fitzroy embraces diversity, and encourages students of varying age, faith and cultural background to apply to participate in the program. Students must meet basic criteria, including:

- A desire to learn
- A commitment to attend weekly lectures and sessions with Learning Partners
- Stable health and housing
- Basic literacy
- Citizenship or study rights
- 18 years or older, and
- Not currently enrolled at university

Become a learning partner

Our Learning Partners come to us with different gifts and skill sets.

The program gives them the opportunity to give back and help others, by providing academic support, encouragement and mentoring to a Clemente student.

With a degree level education or higher, Learning Partners commit to 90 minutes per week over a 13 week semester to attend briefing sessions with lecturers and weekly tutorials with students.

CatholicCare screens, trains and supports Learning Partners through a non-denominational volunteer program.

