

Tuesday 26 August, 2025

## **Supporting Statement from Global Village Learning**

### **Prepared in support of the Consensus 21 proposal by Kieran Nolan and Josh Blount**

#### **Why Global Village Learning is Integral to this Proposal**

Launching a world-breaking school that integrates advanced IT, blockchain, and finance education from primary years requires not only vision but also proven educational infrastructure. While Kieran Nolan and Josh bring unmatched expertise in high-end technology, blockchain, and digital finance, the partnership with Global Village Learning (GVL) ensures that this project is credible, compliant, and sustainable within the broader education sector.

Most new school ventures face years of administrative hurdles before they can even open their doors. In first-world jurisdictions like Australia, establishing a school from scratch requires a lengthy approval and registration process, often consuming years and enormous amounts of capital.

GVL already holds full school registration and government recognition. This means that Consensus 21 can be launched as an additional campus of GVL rather than a wholly new institution. The effect is immediate:

- Fast-tracked timelines - no need to spend years securing approvals.
- Reduced risk - the venture is shielded from bureaucratic uncertainty.
- Legitimacy - parents, young people, and government agencies see the school as part of an established and respected institution.
- In short: Kieran and Josh provide the high-tech DNA. GVL provides the educational operating system. Together, the pieces align.

#### **Leadership Strength: Vision and Delivery**

##### **Peter Hutton – Co-Founder and Co-Leader of GVL**

Peter Hutton is a pragmatic idealist, passionate about turning bold visions into deliverable innovations. He has over 30 years' experience in education, including 25 years as a principal or assistant principal in both government and independent schools.

- Templestowe College (Principal) – Grew enrolments from 286 to 1,150 in just eight years. Recognised by Finland's HundrED organisation as one of the 100 most innovative schools in the world, celebrated for its radical student agency and empowerment.
- Future Schools Alliance (Founder) – Built a membership organisation of 115 innovative schools across Australia and internationally.
- The Constellation (Founder) – Brought together 12 of the world's most innovative schools during COVID for collaboration and idea-sharing.
- Author – Turning Around a Troubled School, a published work (available in print and audiobook) that documents his practical methods for transformation.
- Financial Acumen – Holds an accounting degree and worked in insolvency with Coopers & Lybrand (now PwC), giving him deep insight into sustainable financial turnaround strategies.

- School Turnaround Expert – Transformed a failing Montessori-based school two months from insolvency into a thriving institution:
  - **Year 1:** From ~AUD\$250k projected deficit in 2022 to AUD\$594k surplus in six months.
  - **Year 2:** Surplus AUD\$866k on stable enrolments.
  - **Year 3:** Enrolments in 2023 reached 115 young people and a surplus of AUD\$994m.
  - **Year 4 (2025):** Enrolments surged by 74% to 200 young people and 35 Guides, generating an approximate AUD\$1.5m surplus.
  - **Projected:** 300 enrolments across four hubs by June 2026.

### Pip Cleaves – Co-Founder and Co-Leader of GVL

Where Peter brings high-level vision and disruptive innovation, Pip Cleaves is the operational architect who makes it happen.

- Geek Leadership – Widely recognised as one of Australia’s strongest technology education leaders.
- System Leadership – Former Deputy Principal in charge of innovation across four large NSW secondary schools.
- Policy and Infrastructure – Held senior positions in the NSW Department of Education overseeing IT infrastructure and rollout.
- Global Partnerships – Worked with Microsoft and Adobe at a global level, ensuring that her insights extend beyond Australia into cutting-edge international best practice.
- Execution Mastery – Pip is the logistics, planning, curriculum, and compliance guru who ensures big visions are delivered flawlessly. Together, Peter and Pip form a unique partnership: Peter dreams it, Pip makes it real.

### A Trusted Partnership with Kieran Nolan

Peter has known Kieran Nolan as a colleague for over 10 years and can attest to his groundbreaking thinking in education and technology. His reputation for combining technical excellence with visionary ideas makes him the ideal partner for a venture of this scope. The strength of this proposal lies in the convergence of Kieran and Josh’s tech-driven vision with GVL’s educational legitimacy and proven leadership.

### Innovation and Growth: GVL’s Track Record

- **Castlemaine Gaol (2025)** – In a move that captured national attention, GVL purchased the historic 1861 Castlemaine Gaol. Originally projected for 20 students in its first year, media coverage drove 90+ expressions of interest within 48 hours. Today, there are over 250 EOIs for a site capped at 200. This speaks to a latent demand for innovative, learner-led communities.
- **Simultaneous Expansion** – GVL is currently managing the jail project alongside three other building programs. While financially robust, this rapid growth has maximised current capital capacity — making external investment critical for accelerating the establishment of a third campus (Consensus 21).

## GVL's Value-Add to Consensus 21

Angel investors can be confident that GVL provides far more than educational “branding.” The value-add is tangible:

- Educational Credibility – GVL is respected across the Australian education sector and globally within the innovative learning community.
- Reputation of Leaders – Peter and Pip are highly trusted figures in both traditional and disruptive education. Their names carry weight with peers, regulators, and media.
- Operational Systems – GVL already has HR, compliance, administration, and financial systems scaled to manage projects of this size. Consensus 21 can plug into this infrastructure immediately.
- Proven Community Building – Both locally and globally, GVL has demonstrated unmatched ability to build momentum, attract enrolments, and foster community ownership.
- Track Record – From school turnarounds to rapid expansion, GVL has consistently delivered sustainable results.

Importantly, the figures presented here are independently verifiable via the Australian government's My School website. Full audited financial documents are also available to investors on request.

## Financial Sustainability: Why This Matters

Most philanthropic school start-ups worldwide fail once initial seed funding runs out. They simply cannot cover ongoing operational costs.

Australia is unique. Government funding to independent schools provides a secure, long-term base. When well-managed, it covers the majority of operational costs. Parents contribute a comparatively modest fee of around AUD\$7,800 per year, with bursaries from 50–100% available for those in financial need.

The implication for investors is profound:

- Seed funding is only required for capital costs (land, design, buildings).
- Ongoing operational costs are met sustainably through government and parent contributions
- There is no risk of the project collapsing after the initial capital is spent — the Achilles' heel of many otherwise brilliant start-ups.

Estimated requirement: AUD\$10–12 million for land acquisition, design, and construction to house 200 learners. Once established, the model is self-sustaining.

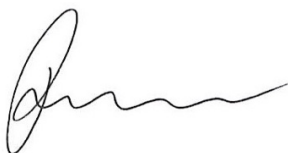
Furthermore, to protect investors, the proposal is that any capital investment be quarantined exclusively for the Consensus 21 site — ensuring clarity, accountability, and full transparency of funds.

## Global Vision: Consensus 21

Consensus 21 will not simply be a school. It will be a living model of the future of education, integrating blockchain, finance, and high-tech literacy from the earliest years.

Backed by GVL's proven leadership and systems, it will demonstrate how educational communities worldwide can design and sustain innovation without the collapse that so often follows philanthropy-only projects. International observers will be able to learn from, adapt, and implement the Consensus 21 framework.

This is not just another start-up school. It is an exportable model that, if successful, could reshape the global education landscape.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Hutton".

**Peter Hutton**  
Executive Director  
Global Village Learning

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pip Cleaves".

**Pip Cleaves**  
Chief Learning Architect  
Global Village Learning