



MATER DEI STUDENT ANNOUNCED AS A STATE WINNER IN 2021 LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

Country to Canberra is a not for profit organisation that empowers young rural women to reach their leadership potential. Founded in 2014 *Country to Canberra* runs nationwide programs that provide education, leadership and mentorship opportunities to regional, rural and remote teenage girls.

Country to Canberra recently announced that Elora Guirguis, a Year 10 student at Mater Dei Catholic College has been named as a State winner in the *Country to Canberra* Leadership Competition.

The fifteen winners from rural Australia responded to the question:

COURAGE TO CHALLENGE: what is the role of rural women in driving change in their communities?

Elora's brilliant winning entry and biography can be viewed [here](#). It cleverly compares the lifegiving contribution of women in rural areas to the tireless work of bees who build and bind their colony.

Elora describes her motivation for entering the competition as her passion for gender equality and female empowerment. She believed that entering this competition would give her a great experience, enabling Elora to use her voice and build her confidence and public speaking skills, as well as being an opportunity to meet like minded people.

With the trip to Canberra to meet and work with nationally recognised leaders not possible this year due to COVID restrictions, Elora's winning entry will allow her to participate in an online program. The C2C On Screen (C2COS) is a multi-day virtual program for the 2021 winners that will bring together all the winners to meet each other, discuss and learn about challenging issues, participate in skill building workshops, meet and listen to inspirational figures, and have some fun!

Congratulations Elora on your amazing achievement!