
VICTORIAN HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMUNIQUE NO. 25: 31 August 2023

The 25th meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) was held on 31 August 2023.

VICTORIAN REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY UPDATE

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) provided an update on regulatory activity. Members heard about the VRQA's role as an Information Sharing Entity under the Child Information Sharing Scheme and the Family Violence Sharing Scheme.

HOME SCHOOLING OPTIONS

The Chair reported that substantial progress has been made on the following issues raised by VHEAC, and the Department of Education (the department) will provide an update at the next meeting:

- exemption processes for home schooling students under 17 years of age
- the proposal to extend home schooling registration beyond the compulsory school age of 17 years.

The Chair advised that the issue of access to funded part-time TAFE for home schooling students required further consideration.

MID-CYCLE REVIEW OF PART 6 OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM (ETR) REGULATIONS 2017

The department provided an update on the mid-cycle review process. It noted the review was internally focused and that members could provide input to the department by mid-September 2023.

ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS FOR HOME SCHOOLING

VHEAC noted its achievements including a collaborative approach to developing forms and processes for registration, learning plans and reviews as well as the revision of The Guide to Home Education in Victoria. Members discussed options for future engagement between the department and home schooling representatives and agreed to further consideration of this issue at the next meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The Chair provided an overview of the department's 2023–27 Strategic Plan that provides a renewed focus on school education and early childhood education and care for all Victorian children and young people, including children and young people who are home schooled.

ABOUT

VHEAC was established in the context of the regulatory changes to home schooling that commenced in Victoria on 1 January 2018.

VHEAC provides guidance, information and feedback to the department and VRQA on the operation of the home education regulations and on home education matters in Victoria.

VHEAC meets at least 3 times each year. A communique is published after each meeting. The department provides secretariat support to VHEAC.

Previous communiques can be found online on the department's website: <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-home-education-advisory-committee>.

AUGUST 2023 MEETING

The August 2023 meeting was attended by the following members:

- Melissa Clark, Executive Director, Portfolio Strategy and Planning, Department of Education (Chair)
- Keith Don, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Students and Services, VRQA
- Chris O'Sullivan, Manager, Home Schooling Unit, VRQA
- Heidi Ryan, Disability Advocate
- Ben Clark, Home Education Representative
- Faye Coker, Home Education Representative
- Kamy Foster, Home Education Representative
- Kirsty James, Home Education Representative
- Pavlina McMaster, Home Education Representative
- Sue Wight, Home Education Representative

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VHEAC SECRETARIAT

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