

# VICTORIAN HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## COMMUNIQUE NO.22: 12 JULY 2022

The twenty second meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) was held in a hybrid format on 12 July 2022.

### VHEAC TERMS OF REFERENCE

Committee members endorsed a revised Terms of Reference inclusive of minor changes.

### TRANSITION TO FULL TIME STUDY OR EMPLOYMENT

When a student is seeking to transition from home education to full time tertiary study or employment, prior to age 17, they must receive an exemption from home education registration from the relevant regional office.

The department continues to examine what a tailored exemption process for home education students might look like.

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING FUNDING OPTIONS

VHEAC Home Education representatives submitted a presentation, including short case studies, outlining issues for families when trying to access vocational training. The presentation will inform further department considerations about possible options for home education students accessing subsidised vocational training.

### SUPPORT OF HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS IN HOSPITAL

The principal of the Monash Children's Hospital School (MCHS) provided an overview of the school, including the centrality of the partnership between families, and hospital staff in supporting young people receiving treatment. The principal noted the requirement for MCHS staff to obtain consent from parents prior to providing education support to patients.

Home Education representatives and the MCHS principal agreed to engage in a further out of session discussion to raising awareness of home education among children's hospitals, and health services.

### STUDENT CARDS FOR HOME EDUCATED STUDENTS

Options for home education students to access student cards were explored with findings revealing that amendments to the Education and Training Reform Act (ETRA) 2006 are required if the VRQA is to issue student cards. With home education students being able to access public transport concession cards to enable discounted travel, and the internationally recognised [Student Identity Card](#), the item will not be pursued further.

### REGISTRATION OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS PAST THEIR COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

Home Education representatives provided a paper addressing registration options for home education students past their compulsory age. The paper will inform further discussions within the department.

### GUIDE TO HOME EDUCATION IN VICTORIA

As part of the department's review of the *Guide to Home Education in Victoria*, the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), and Home Education representatives were invited to provide out of session feedback by 12 August 2022.

### VRQA UPDATE

The VRQA reported that home education registrations had experienced significant growth in 2021 and the first half of 2022. The coronavirus pandemic had seen an increase in home education applications for

registration compared to the same quarter in 2020. Registration applications during Term 2, 2022 had slowed, however, year to date figures remain approximately triple that received in 2021.

### HOME EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Members were provided with a summary of data collected from the 2021 Home Education Network survey. Key insights included that registration rates have increased since the home education regulations commenced and that a range of factors influence why families choose to home educate. The Committee also heard about the education and training provided by the Home Education Network and the positive response from members.

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### 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 of Education and Training (the department) and the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) on the operation of the home education regulations and on home education matters in Victoria.

VHEAC meets at least three times each year and Communiques are shared publicly after each meeting. The department provides secretariat support to the VHEAC.

Previous Communiques can be found online on the department's website:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/structure/Pages/vheac.aspx>

### July 2022 MEETING

The July meeting was attended by the following members:

- Eleanor Donovan, Director, Partnerships and Sector Support Branch, Department of Education and Training (DET), Chair and representative for the department
- Dr Lina Di Paolo, Manager, Non-Government Schooling and Sector Support, DET
- Chris Ingham, Deputy CEO, Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA)
- Helen Cain, Acting Manager, Home Schooling Unit, VRQA
- Sue Wight, Home Education Representative
- Ben Clark, Home Education Representative
- Faye Coker, Home Education Representative
- Pavlina McMaster, Home Education Representative
- Kirsty James, Home Education Representative
- Megan Fisher, Home Education Representative
- Kanya Foster, Home Education Representative
- Heidi Ryan, Disability Advocate

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### VHEAC SECRETARIAT

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