
VICTORIAN HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMUNIQUE NO. 28: 13 August 2024

The 28th meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) was held on 13 August 2024.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW HOME EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

VHEAC home education representatives **will be recruited** to vacant positions. These members will be selected by a panel of current VHEAC home education representatives over coming months. Applicants for the positions must:

- have a minimum of 2 years home education experience and be able to provide guidance, information, and feedback on home schooling matters in Victoria
- be connected to the Victorian home education community (as a home educating parent, past parent, or home educated adult)

VICTORIAN REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY UPDATE

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) provided an update on regulatory activity. Members heard the VRQA is continuing to address an increase in the number of unregistered schools, which are unauthorised to operate and present safety and educational risks for students.

DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

VHEAC members will have the opportunity to discuss these outcomes in more detail at the next VHEAC meeting on 19 November.

UPDATE ON POLICY ISSUES RAISED BY VHEAC

Exemptions for registered home schooling students aged under 17

VHEAC members noted the Department's policy work to improve the process for registered home schooling, where students under the age of 17 years will be exempted from home schooling to pursue full-time education or training, or employment, or a combination of both.

Access to funded part-time TAFE for home schooled students

The Department informed members that while it supports in principle providing access to funded part-time TAFE for home schooling students, further work is needed to progress this issue including discussions with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

HOME EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Home education representatives raised a number of issues with the Department of Education, including issues around home schooled students access to student cards, foster carers access to home schooling, and cost equity around entry to specialist tech schools as part of home schooling education. The Department and the VRQA committed to providing advice on these matters at a future VHEAC meeting.

MEETING ATTENDEES

The August 2024 meeting was attended by the following members:

- Richard Johnson, Executive Director, Planning, Risk and Non-Government Schools, Department of Education (Chair)
- Chris O'Sullivan, Manager, Home Schooling Unit, VRQA

- Dr Glenda Jackson, Director, Australian Home Education Advisory Service
- Heidi Ryan, Disability Advocate
- Ben Clark, Home Education Representative
- Kirsty James, Home Education Representative
- Pavlina McMaster, Home Education Representative
- Sue Wight, Home Education Representative
- Megan Fisher, Home Education Representative

ABOUT VHEAC

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

VHEAC meets at least 3 times each year and a communique is published after each meeting. The department provides secretariat support to VHEAC. Communiques from previous VHEAC meetings can be found online on the department's website at <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-home-education-advisory-committee>.

VHEAC SECRETARIAT

Department of Education

Email: vheac@education.vic.gov.au

To receive this information in an accessible format, please contact the VHEAC Secretariat.