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## VICTORIAN HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### COMMUNIQUE NO. 26: 31 October 2023

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The 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) was held on 31 October 2023.

#### VICTORIAN REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY UPDATE

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) provided an update on regulatory activity. Members heard about the development of a new home school database which would allow parents to upload their home schooling application and review materials through the parent portal. The database will be in place by the end of 2024. Information and support will be shared with the community prior to implementation.

#### HOME SCHOOLING OPTIONS

The Chair reported that progress has been delayed on the following issues raised by VHEAC due to recent changes in Ministerial portfolios:

- exemption from home schooling to enable home schooling students under 17 years of age to pursue full-time education or training, or employment or a combination of these
- the proposal to extend home schooling registration beyond the compulsory school age of 17 years.

The Department of Education (the department) will provide an update on the above issues at the next VHEAC meeting.

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

#### GUIDE TO HOME SCHOOLING IN VICTORIA

The department provided an update on the Guide to Home Education in Victoria. The Guide has been revised to make it simpler and reduce duplication. The reviewed Guide will be published in 2024.

#### 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>.

## OCTOBER 2023 MEETING

The October 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
- Dr Glenda Jackson, Director Australian Home Schooling Advisory Service
- Ben Clark, Home Education Representative
- Faye Coker, Home Education Representative
- Megan Fisher, Home Education Representative
- Kirsty James, Home Education Representative
- Pavlina McMaster, Home Education Representative
- Sue Wight, Home Education Representative

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## VHEAC SECRETARIAT

Department of Education

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