

Communique

Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee

The Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) met on 16 June 2026, 7 July 2026 and 17 July 2026.

Meeting 34

The 34th meeting of VHEAC was held on 16 June 2026.

Update on ETR Regulations review

The department provided an update on its review of the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Regulations 2017 which expire in June 2027. The Committee provided feedback to inform this review.

Meeting 35

The 35th meeting of VHEAC was held on 7 July 2026.

Home Education Representatives report

The department heard a presentation from Home Ed Representatives on approaches to home schooling regulation. These regulatory proposals were designed to appropriately accommodate the circumstances of many families within the home education community. For example, the proposals sought to respond with due consideration to the challenges faced by 'school can't' families when first registering their child for home schooling.

Home education research and data

Dr Glenda Jackson provided an update on recent home education research and media articles.

Victorian STEM education centres

The department provided an update on access to Victorian STEM education centres for home educated children. Tech Schools are free for secondary school-aged students and can be accessed by home educated groups in the Local Government Area (LGA).

Access to Science and Maths Specialist Centres incurs a cost for home educated students who reside in local school zones outside of metropolitan disadvantaged or rural areas. Home educated students may be able to access the Centres with a subsidy through a subject specific partial enrolment at a government school.

The department is seeking advice on duty of care at Tech Schools, which includes consideration of parent attendance for home educated children.

Comprehensive review and update of home education guidance

The department updated members on its review and update of the *Guide to Home Schooling in Victoria*. This aims to ensure clear and consistent information is available to families across relevant government websites. The VRQA will also be reviewing the home education pages on its website. Members were supportive of the

guidance update and discussed areas where guidance could be expanded for home educating families. The department will continue to consult with members on planned updates.

Exemptions Ministerial Order and Home Education application form

The department shared an update on the new Ministerial Order (MO) for young people seeking an exemption from school. Implementation of the MO is proposed to commence from Term 1, 2027. The MO will be supported by an updated application form for all students, new resources and new public facing information. The department shared the underpinning principles of the new application form, which is designed to centre on the best interests of the young person, and will continue to engage with the Committee on its development.

VRQA Home Education report

The VRQA updated members on registrations, unregistered schools and home education reviews, which are underway but delayed due to high application volumes. The VRQA also shared an update on the new home schooling database system where home educating families will be able to view active and historic registrations, action reviews and view and update their learning plan.

Meeting 36

The 36th meeting of VHEAC was held on 17 July 2026.

VRQA Home Education report

The VRQA continued its demonstration of the new home schooling database system. The Committee discussed the learning plan section of the system and members expressed their view on retaining the current flexibility for families to complete this in either a subject-based or activity-based format, and their equal acceptability by the VRQA.

Home Education Representatives report

With a view to sharing insights from their interstate contacts to help inform the remaking of Victoria's homeschooling regulations, the Home Ed Representatives presented on the strengths and weaknesses of SA and WA regulatory frameworks. The department heard members' preference for a child-centred approach in considering options within the ETR Regulations 2017 review.

Update on the review and remake of the ETR Regulations 2017: follow up discussion

The Committee provided further feedback to inform the development of proposed home education regulations in the ETR Regulations 2027. The department will consult further with VHEAC members and relevant stakeholders on the regulations review. As part of the review and remake process, the regulatory impact statement and draft regulations will be released for public consultation and comment.

Meeting Attendees

The meetings were attended by the following members. The Victorian Regulation and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) attendees recused themselves from discussions on the ETR regulations.

- Linda Vaughan, Executive Director, International Education and Partnerships Division, DE (Chair)
- Keith Don, Deputy CEO, Students and Services, VRQA
- Chris O'Sullivan, Manager, Home Schooling Unit, VRQA
- Kirsty James, Home Education Representative

- Pavlina McMaster, Home Education Representative
- Annie Regan, Home Education Representative
- Joanna Bindon, Home Education Representative
- Kate Croft, Home Education Representative
- Kamy Foster, Home Education Representative (*absent for meeting 34*)
- Lois Bedson, Home Education Representative (*absent for meeting 36*)
- Heidi Ryan, Home Education Disability Advocate
- Dr Glenda Jackson, Home Education Researcher (*absent for meeting 36*)

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 follows these meetings. 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

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