

Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee

Communique no. 33

The 33rd meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) held on 4 March 2026.

VRQA Home Education report

The VRQA provided an update on registrations, continuations, unregistered schools and reviews. The VRQA advised that home education reviews are underway but have been delayed by an increase in applications some of which require follow up due to concerns regarding unregistered schools.

The VRQA updated members on the home education IT system which will allow applications and reviews to be made through a Salesforce portal. Email and phone enquiries will also be captured and attached to registrations. The project is in the design phase and will expand on work and consultation begun in 2024. Go-live is planned for October 2026.

Sunsetting of ETR Regulations 2017

The Department of Education (department) provided an update on its review of in the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (ETR Regulations) which expire in June 2027. The department sought feedback on the following principles understood to be the collective view of VHEAC based on previous consultation, which VHEAC confirmed:

- Many aspects of the regulatory framework are working well for home educating families
- It is an asset that Victoria's home educating framework is less burdensome than other jurisdictions
- The regulations should be child centred, ensuring that safety and wellbeing is prioritised.
- The regulations should consider the balance of burden on all families when addressing the issues of a minority of families

The department is committed to a transparent approach in the review and remake of the ETR Regulations and invited discussion from members on a range of topics including data collection, information sharing and the learning plan and review process. The department will consult with the Home Education Network (HEN) and relevant stakeholders, outside of regular VHEAC meetings.

Update on exemptions for home schooling students

Students beginning a full-time, non-school pathway, such as TAFE, before the age of 17 require an exemption from school. The department is developing a new Ministerial Order (MO) that aims to strengthen the best interests legal framework for exemptions and promote equity and transparency in school exemption processes for all Victorian young people, including home education students.

The changes are consistent with current regional exemption practices for home education students and align with proposed changes for students enrolled in a Victorian school, including centring the best interests of the child as the guiding principle for exemption decision making.

The new MO will be supported by an updated Exemption from School Application form which will reflect applications for home education students, and a new public webpage to support students and families to understand the exemption process and their responsibilities. Implementation is planned to commence in Term 3, 2026.

Meeting Attendees

The meeting was attended by the following members:

- Linda Vaughan, Executive Director, International Education and Partnerships Division, Department of Education (Chair)
- Chris O'Sullivan, Manager, Home Schooling Unit, Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority
- Kirsty James, Home Education Representative
- Pavlina McMaster, Home Education Representative
- Annie Regan, Home Education Representative
- Kate Croft, Home Education Representative
- Lois Bedson, Home Education Representative
- Kamy Foster, Home Education Representative
- Heidi Ryan, Home Education Disability Advocate
- Dr Glenda Jackson, Home Education Researcher/

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: yheac@education.vic.gov.au

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