

## Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee

Meeting 3: 12 October 2017

### Communiqué

The third meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) was held in Melbourne on Thursday, 12 October 2017. Committee members continued to progress a range of issues relating to the implementation and operation of the regulatory changes to home schooling. They also received a further update from the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) on its recruitment processes for the new home schooling unit staff and preparation for the VRQA Roadshows commencing on Friday, 20 October 2017.

#### Resources to support home education families

- The VRQA provided an update on the revised registration form, which was amended following feedback from the VHEAC.
- Members approved the Department's learning plan template, to be provided as an optional template for use by those parents seeking guidance. Members also discussed an alternative template developed by the home education representatives that may be used by parents. It was noted that a learning plan can be supplied in any written format provided that it addresses the regulatory requirements.
- Members provided further feedback on the revised *Guide to Home Education in Victoria*. There was discussion about requirements for exemptions from one or more learning areas and partial enrolment arrangements. The Guide will be further revised and circulated for final endorsement by the VHEAC out of session.
- Members provided input to the draft Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that the Department is developing to help home education families to navigate the regulatory changes. This document will be finalised in time for distribution at the VRQA Roadshows, noting it will continue to be updated in response to issues raised at the Roadshows.

#### Support for children at risk during the 28 day application period

- Members discussed the options available to parents of children enrolled in a school who are concerned for their child's wellbeing and wish to remove them while seeking to register for home schooling.
- The Department undertook to update the *Guide to Home Education in Victoria* to more clearly outline the options available to parents in these circumstances, including the relevant systems and processes.

#### Other business

Members agreed to hold a further VHEAC meeting in 2017 to continue discussions on the implementation work underway. The meeting will be scheduled for mid-November 2017.