

Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee

Meeting 1: 31 August 2017

Communiqué

The first meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) was held in Melbourne on Thursday, 31 August 2017. The VHEAC will provide guidance, information and feedback to the Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) on the operation of the regulatory changes to home education in Victoria, which commence from 1 January 2018 and are outlined in the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017*.

VHEAC members welcomed the opportunity to discuss a range of issues relating to the implementation and operation of the regulatory changes. Throughout the meeting, there was agreement around the need for collaboration and engagement between all parties ahead of and following the commencement of the new Regulations.

Terms of Reference

Members discussed the draft Terms of Reference for the VHEAC and DET agreed to clarify the tenure of the Committee, and the membership and quorum arrangements.

While the specific discussions of the VHEAC are confidential, a short Communiqué, agreed by Members, will be published following each meeting summarising the key discussion items and outcomes.

Resources to support home education families

Committee members provided feedback on initial drafts of resources on the operation of the new Regulations, including the VRQA home education policy and a draft learning plan template. Members highlighted the different models for home education and the need to take account of different learning styles and approaches. It was agreed that the drafting and feedback process would continue out of session ahead of the next VHEAC meeting at the end of September 2017 in order to progress this work and maintain momentum.

Other business

Members discussed the need to clarify the requirements during the 28 day assessment period where a child is unable to attend school for a period of time due to illness, stress, bullying, or other difficulties. It was agreed this matter would be discussed further, with clear guidance to be included in the revised support materials to be developed by DET.