**Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee**

Meeting 15 (9 October 2020)

**Communiqué**

The fifteenth meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) was held on 9 October 2020. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, the meeting was held using video-conferencing technology.

VHEAC members discussed a range of issues including the results of the 2020 Home Education Network (HEN) survey and an update of the review of the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017* (the Regulations).The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) also provided an update on VRQA activity.

**VRQA Update**

There has been an increase in the number of phone and email queries regarding home education to the VRQA, which may result in an increase in applications to coincide with the resumption of face-to face learning. VQRA is currently progressing through home schooling reviews and will also be notifying families on the 30 October 2020 in relation to the continuation of home education arrangements for 2021.

**HEN 2020 Survey**

The 2020 HEN survey had a good response rate with 1,339 respondents with varying levels of home education experience. A top factor for commencing home education this year was ‘for a happy family’ as this allowed some families to spend more time together.

**Evaluation of home schooling regulations**

A proposal was brought to the VHEAC subcommittee to engage an independent consultant to undertake the evaluation of the home schooling regulations and maximise impartiality. The Department of Education would continue to provide project management and support, including planning to implementing any recommendations arising from the evaluation. The proposal was supported by the committee, noting the need to ensure the right consultant was selected and the importance of the procurement and selection process.

The VHEAC endorsed the approach to release a public Expression of Interest (EOI) document to allow the committee to understand the market and vet the potential candidates, including their background, experience and capability. A subcommittee will collaborate on the EOI document before release.

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