

# VICTORIAN HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting 16 (7 December 2020)

## Communiqué

The sixteenth meeting of the Victorian Home Education Advisory Committee (VHEAC) was held on 7 December 2020. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, the meeting was held using video-conferencing technology.

VHEAC members discussed a range of issues including the delays surrounding reviews conducted by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), the current process for transitioning from home education to TAFE 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

Jonathan Kaplan will commence as the VRQA's new CEO from 14 December 2020 with a background in integrity and assurance.

The results of VRQA's client and stakeholder survey for 2020 has been excellent and satisfaction have improved from previous years. Results will be published in February 2021.

The VRQA has sent out continuation notices for 2021 and the vast majority of families have responded. Applications for home education have eased from the previous spike earlier in 2020, however there is still a slight increase in applications to commence in 2021.

The growth in application numbers in 2020 have resulted in a backlog in reviews. The home education representatives reiterated the need for improved communication in relation to reviews, such as acknowledging the receipt of submissions as many parents find it stressful to be reviewed. The VRQA committed to acknowledging and updating all families with outstanding reviews before Christmas 2020. The remaining reviews scheduled for 2020 will be completed in 2021.

### Transition to TAFE

When students transition from home education to TAFE, they are required to complete a 'transition from school form' which is not designed for students who have been home educated. There is also a disparity between the requirements for home educators and mainstream schools when transitioning. The Department will investigate further on current disparities and how the process can be streamlined.

### Evaluation of home schooling regulations

An Expression of Interest (EOI) was released on Friday 6 November and closed on Friday 27 November 2020 to engage an independent consultant to undertake the evaluation of the home schooling regulations. Nine responses were received.

An assessment panel comprising members from the Department of Education and Training and a home educator representative is being established to undertake decision-making associated with the shortlisting of the candidates. Due to the high calibre of the responses received, a Request for Quote (RFQ) may be issued to request full submissions from the shortlisted candidates. Interviews may also need to be undertaken.

The review timelines may be slightly extended to accommodate this process, however, the emphasis is to ensure that a proper process is followed to appoint the right candidate. The anticipated timeline to complete the review is expected to take six months from the appointment of

the independent consultant.

---

Enquiries: Contact the VHEAC Secretariat [vheac@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vheac@edumail.vic.gov.au)