

# VCAA Bulletin

Official publication for Early Years, F–10, VCE, VCAL and VET

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## People and places in early childhood education

So much of what we do at the VCAA is centred around processes and systems that support the development of Victoria's curriculum and assessment, including early childhood education. Behind the scenes, we are privileged to know many of you in schools and educational settings and see the inspiring work that you do with young people and in the broader community. There are so many stories of your contribution to Victoria's education and young people that could be shared.

This is the motivation behind a new page we've created for early childhood educators called [People and places in early childhood education](#). The page is dedicated to sharing 'on the ground' insights and experiences in early learning centres and venues.

The first contribution is an interview with Michelle Gujer, the Early Learning Manager at Gowrie Broadmeadows Valley. This 128-place early learning centre includes long day care,

integrated kindergarten and sessional kindergarten, and is located within the Broadmeadows Valley Learning Precinct.

As a dynamic and busy hub for children and families, the educators place the VEYLDF practice principle of 'high expectations for every child' at the centre of their work. In this interview, Michelle explains how they engage with the principle and how it influences her leadership approach, relationships with families and colleagues, and the outcomes the service achieves.

We will publish four 'People and places in early childhood education' feature items this year. Look out for notifications in the Bulletin or subscribe to the [Early Years Alert](#).

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## Message from the CEO

Welcome to the March edition of the Bulletin. The month heralds a number of significant days and events, not least of which includes Victoria's largest multicultural celebration, Cultural Diversity Week (19–27 March), which coincides with World Harmony Day (21 March). It seems fitting that World Harmony Day shares the same date with World Poetry Day, perhaps highlighting a connection between the art of words and the pursuit of harmony in the world.

### 2022 Season of Excellence

This month, I am delighted to report that the 2022 Season of Excellence has begun with Top Talks at State Library Victoria. The talent of our young people never ceases to amaze me and I encourage you to see some of it on display and in performance over the coming weeks at our various Season events and activities. This year brings an air of added excitement, as we return to galleries and venues in person.

Find out the latest updates and booking information on our [Season Hub](#).

### Senior Secondary Certificate Reform

Thank you to the over 1000 principals who attended our information session last month. Your feedback and input is invaluable as we move towards the implementation of the VCE Vocational Major (VM) and Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC). We have published supporting resources from this session on our [Victorian Senior Secondary Certificate Reform](#) page.

I now invite all VCE and VCAL teachers and career practitioners to attend one of our professional learning sessions over the coming weeks. Details are available on the [VCE VM and VPC professional learning](#) page.

### General Achievement Test

Thank you for your positive response to the reformed GAT, which we covered in the [previous Bulletin](#) edition. Don't forget to check the [General Achievement Test](#) page for answers to some of your questions. Many of you have been asking about sample pages, which we will publish later this month – look out for further advice in [Notices to Schools](#).

Stephen Gniel  
Chief Executive Officer



### Season of Excellence 2022 begins with Top Talks at State Library Victoria

The Season of Excellence 2022 opened with Top Talks on Friday 4 March. The event was held in person at the Village Roadshow Theatre at State Library Victoria and also livestreamed from the venue.

Over the course of the event, four students shared their original and rigorous independent research and findings through ten-minute presentations.

Following the presentations, a Q&A panel discussion was held with the presenters, giving the audience an opportunity to learn more about the students' research topics and methods, as well as their experiences of studying VCE Extended Investigation.

There was a range of topics this year, representing very different areas of enquiry. The students were:

- Jenny Zhu, The University High School, speaking on 'Staphylococcus aureus: Essential oils v. antibiotics'
- Luca Di Lallo, Melbourne High School, exploring his research question 'Does bilateral training in young water polo athletes increase performance?'
- Sidney Centra, Virtual School Victoria / McKinnon Secondary College, discussing 'Perfectionism in adolescents'
- Noah Eid, The University High School, with his speech 'Lettuce drop our pathogenic worries! Comparing eco-fungicide'

Emma Mildenhall, proud Wurundjeri Woman, opened the event with an incisive Welcome to Country. Monica Bini, Curriculum Manager for Extended Investigation and Philosophy, emceed the event and chaired the Q&A discussion.

Guest speaker and Top Talks alumna Cassie Holford also joined the presenters. Cassie, who studied Extended Investigation in 2014, was awarded the 2020 Monash Faculty of Law Prize of Best Honours Thesis, as well as the Victorian Supreme Court Prize for best Honours Thesis. She gave a powerful speech reflecting on what Extended Investigation meant for her.

'It's the only subject where you can grow a seed of an idea into a physical product that you can actually hold in your hands and say, "I wrote this. I wrote this because it was interesting to me, and I worked really hard to do it." I truly think that is such a rewarding feeling that is unique to this subject.'

Recordings from this event will be available on the [Top Talks](#) page from April.

For more information about Season of Excellence 2022 events and to book your tickets, go to the [Season Hub](#).



From left: Cassie Holford, Sidney Centra, Noah Eid, Jenny Zhu, Luca Di Lallo and Monica Bini at Top Talks 2022

### Next Twilight Webinar

[Register now](#) for the March Twilight Webinar 'Enhancing and extending children's fine motor development through playful learning experiences'. The guest speaker for this event is Dr Anoo Bhojti, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Primary and Allied Health Care at Monash University. The event will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 30 March.

The webinar will support early childhood professionals working with children aged 3 to 5 years of age to better understand:

- how to support children's fine motor development through the delivery of everyday learning experiences
- the importance of movement and physical play in the development of fine motor skills
- how the development and consolidation of fine motor skills enables engagement with other learning opportunities that help children build a strong foundation for future development.

To prepare for the webinar we encourage you to read [Noticing the red flags for children's learning and development: How an occupational therapy lens can support your work as an educator – A conversation with Dr Anoo Bhojti](#).

### Find out more

Subscribe to the [Early Years](#) Alert to find out about upcoming webinars and professional learning resources.

For queries, please email the [Early Years Unit](#) or call (03) 9032 1684.

## Curriculum

### Professional learning: The Victorian Curriculum F–10 and assessing student learning

Our webinar series on the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and assessment has commenced. Designed for teachers new to the curriculum, each webinar focuses on a specific curriculum area, and covers topics such as the sound principles of assessment, using the curriculum to support assessment of student learning, and assessment and reporting. In each webinar, opportunities will be made available for participants to put their questions directly to the relevant VCAA Curriculum Manager.

It's not too late to register. Visit the [F–10 professional learning](#) page today.

All webinars will be recorded and progressively published on the on the [F–10 past professional learning materials](#) page.

### Online languages assessments

The VCAA continues to offer access to the free suite of [online languages assessments](#), to support teachers implementing the Victorian Curriculum F–10: Languages.

Developed by the VCAA and the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), these online languages assessments consist of a series of multiple-choice listening and reading assessments and are available in Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek and Spanish.

The Languages assessments are available to all schools and community language providers and can be accessed at school or remotely at any time.

For further information on how you can support the teaching of languages, visit the Languages assessment page.

To support teachers using the online language assessments, the VCAA will be hosting a second series of informative and engaging webinars. Dates and times will be published on the F–10 professional learning page as they are confirmed.

Recordings of past webinars that support teachers using the online languages assessments, can be accessed via the [F–10 past professional learning materials](#) page.

### Curriculum planning

Curriculum leaders are reminded that we have a dedicated [curriculum planning website](#), with information and resources to help teachers plan their teaching and learning programs based on the Victorian Curriculum F–10.

### Stay up to date

For updates about implementing the F–10 curriculum in Victoria, including developments and resources, subscribe to the [F–10 Curriculum Update](#).

## Curriculum

### VCE study designs for implementation in 2023

The study designs for the following VCE studies for implementation from 2023 are now available on the relevant VCE study pages:

- Aboriginal Languages of Victoria (currently known as Indigenous Languages of Victoria: Revival and Reclamation)
- Algorithmics (HESS)
- Art Creative Practice (currently known as Art)
- Art Making and Exhibiting (currently known as Studio Arts)
- Business Management
- Chemistry (Units 1 and 2) – Staged implementation
- Chinese Language, Culture and Society
- Economics
- English and English as an Additional Language (Units 1 and 2) – Staged implementation
- Food Studies
- Literature
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physics (Units 1 and 2) – Staged implementation
- Psychology
- Religion and Society
- Texts and Traditions.

A reminder that the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) has approved the extension of the current accredited VCE Chemistry, English and English as an Additional Language (EAL), and Physics study designs until 31 December 2023 for Units 3 and 4 (only) to accommodate the staged implementation of the revised study design from 2023. Schools must use the current 2017–2023 VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) study design for Units 3 and 4 in 2023.

These study designs have been published in the year before implementation to assist teachers to prepare for the new studies from 2023. They must not be used for the 2022 academic year. Any updates and amendments to study designs will be announced in the [Bulletin](#) and published on the study page.

Additional resources will be added progressively for the implementation of these VCE studies as they become available.

## Equivalent VCE studies from 2023

VCE Studies with significant overlap between them and/or have been replaced by a revised subject, are considered equivalent studies. As there has been name changes for four VCE studies commencing in 2023 we advise of the following:

- **Aboriginal Languages of Victoria**

The VCE Aboriginal Languages of Victoria Study Design (Accreditation Period 2023–2027) will replace the previous study of VCE Indigenous Languages of Victoria – Revival and Reclamation. These two studies have been deemed equivalent studies for Units 1 to 4. For units that are deemed to be equivalent, there are restrictions on credit that may be gained towards satisfactory completion of the VCE. If a student undertakes an equivalent study of a unit they have already satisfactorily completed, only one of these units can be included towards satisfactory completion of the VCE.

- **Art Creative Practice**

The VCE Art Creative Practice Study Design (Accreditation Period 2023–2027) will replace the previous study of VCE Art. These two studies have been deemed equivalent studies for Units 1 to 4. For units that are deemed to be equivalent, there are restrictions on credit that may be gained towards satisfactory completion of the VCE. If a student undertakes an equivalent study of a unit they have already satisfactorily completed, only one of these units can be included towards satisfactory completion of the VCE.

- **Art Making and Exhibiting**

The VCE Art Making and Exhibiting Study Design (Accreditation Period 2023–2027) will replace the previous study of VCE Studio Arts. These two studies have been deemed equivalent studies for Units 1 to 4. For units that are deemed to be equivalent, there are restrictions on credit that may be gained towards satisfactory completion of the VCE. If a student undertakes an equivalent study of a unit they have already satisfactorily completed, only one of these units can be included towards satisfactory completion of the VCE.

- **Music**

The VCE Music Study Design (Accreditation Period 2023–2027) will replace all previous study designs of VCE Music. The following units have been deemed as equivalent studies:

- Units 1 and/or 2 of Music Performance prior to 2023 and Units 1 and/or 2 of Music (2023–2027)
- Units 3 and 4 of Music Performance prior to 2023 and Music Repertoire Performance (2023–2027)
- Units 3 and 4 of Music Investigation prior to 2023 and Units 3 and 4 of Music Inquiry (2023–2027).
- Units 3 and 4 of Music Style and Composition prior to 2023 and Units 3 and 4 of Music Composition (2023–2027).

For units that are deemed to be equivalent, there are restrictions on credit that may be gained towards satisfactory completion of the VCE. If a student undertakes an equivalent study of a unit they have already satisfactorily completed, only one of these units can be included towards satisfactory completion of the VCE.

## VCE History 2022–2026 teaching resources

Refer to [Notice to Schools 19/2022](#).

## VCE Units 3 and 4 Physical Education support materials

Refer to [Notice to Schools 33/2022](#).

## Apply to be a member of the VCE Health and Human Development or VCE Physical Education expert reference groups

Refer to [Notice to Schools 35/2022](#).

## Evaluation of VCE studies online monitoring questionnaire

Refer to [Notice to Schools 36/2022](#).

## Reminder VCE Briefings videos and feedback

Refer to [Notice to Schools 37/2022](#).

## Assessment

### Measuring excellence in Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT) and The Arts (Music and Visual Arts)

In 2022 the VCAA will conduct sample assessment programs in CCT and The Arts (Music and Visual Arts) with a sample of schools across Victoria. This is an exciting opportunity for schools who are invited to be involved in the collection of state-wide data to support the Education State Targets. The participation of students from sampled schools will play a significant role in the tracking of these important targets.

The 2022 assessment periods are as follows:

- The Arts  
Monday 23 May – Friday 24 June  
Monday 11 July – Friday 12 August
- CCT  
Monday 18 July – Friday 5 August

If your school is selected to participate, your principal will receive an invitation by email in Term 1 with additional details about the assessment programs.

### Publication of 2021 external assessment reports

Refer to [Notice to Schools 20/2022](#).

## Senior Secondary Certificate Reform

### Supporting resources

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) is now considering the VCAA's application to accredit the VCE Vocational Major and (VM) Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC), which will commence in 2023. We will publish the accredited curriculum when that process is complete.

Last month, we held briefing webinars to provide more information for principals and teachers on the VCE VM and VPC. A recording of the session, the presentation material and a checklist of key activities for implementation can be found on the [Victorian Senior Secondary Certificate Reform](#) page.

We have also prepared a set of presentation slides with speaking notes for Principals to use to communicate with staff, if required.

All resources are subject to change by the VRQA accreditation process. We will provide resources for communication with parents and students after accreditation is finalised.

### Professional learning for teachers and careers practitioners

VCE and VCAL teachers and careers practitioners are invited to join our extensive program of professional learning opportunities scheduled over the coming months.

Go to the [VCE VM and VPS professional learning](#) page for more information and to register.

### More information

For more about the senior secondary pathway reforms, go to the [Department of Education and Training](#) or email the [Senior Secondary Reform team](#).

### VASS availability for VET enrolments

There has been a delay on availability of VET certificate enrolments on VASS. Currently there are some VE1-VCE VET Programs, VE2-SBATs, and VE3-Other VET certificates that are not available on VASS for enrolment.

For access to apprenticeships and traineeships on VASS (VE2-SBAT), please email a copy of the signed training plan to the [VET Unit](#).

### Key administration dates

Please refer to the [2022 administrative dates](#) for information regarding the enrolment and funding deadline for VET enrolments on Monday 9 May.

### 2022 Scored Assessment webinars

Refer to [Notice to Schools 34/2022](#).

### Coursework Audits for 2021

Results and feedback from 2021 VCE VET Coursework Audits will be sent to principals and managers of the Assessing Group of the VCE VET program and RTO partners in early March. Teachers of VCE VET programs in schools/assessing groups that were audited should make sure they receive the outcome of their audit from their principal or manager. If audit results indicate that improvement in task design is required, teachers should attend the relevant VCE VET Scored Assessment webinar to be held in March 2022.

### Structured Workplace Learning

It is critical that schools refer to the current [Structured Workplace Learning \(SWL\) guidelines](#). Students undertaking SWL who wish to access SWL Recognition should refer to the [SWL Recognition page](#).

It is particularly important for schools engaged in VCE VET Health and Community Services programs to refer to the updated information.

### Expressions of interest for VCE VET programs under review in 2022

If you are an experienced teacher or trainer, consider becoming a member of our reference groups for the major review and redevelopment of the following VCE VET programs:

- VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- VCE VET Community Services
- VCE VET Furnishing
- VCE VET Hair and Beauty
- VCE VET Health
- VCE VET Hospitality (Hospitality and Kitchen Operations)
- VCE VET Laboratory Skills
- VCE VET Sport and Recreation.

These programs remain unchanged for 2022. Notification of VCE VET program redevelopments will be published in the Bulletin.

If you would like to be involved in this process, please [register online](#).

## VCE VET minor reviews

The following VCE VET programs are undergoing a minor review in 2022, for 2023 implementation. More information will be provided in future Bulletins.

- VCE VET Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- VCE VET Applied Language.

## Unit 3–4 sequences in transitioning qualifications

VCE students who have transitioned into a new qualification for their second year of a program should consolidate their enrolment into a single certificate on VASS, to ensure they are accruing a Units 3–4 sequence. Transition advice for VCE VET programs can be found on the [VCE VET Programs](#) page. Schools should ensure once enrolments are finalised that students are accruing the expected amount of credit towards their VCE.

For more information, email the [VET Unit](#).

## VCE VET Sport and Recreation Supplementary Advice

VCE VET Sport and Recreation Supplementary Advice for Teachers is a new resource that provides training and assessment advice for Units 1–4 and information about delivery sequences, learning activities and exam preparation. Download the document from the [VCE VET Sport and Recreation](#) program page.

## VCE VET Integrated Technologies

Schools with enrolments in VCE VET Integrated Technologies and the relevant teachers will shortly receive advice regarding transition from 22289VIC Certificate II in Integrated Technologies to 22586VIC Certificate II in Integrated Technologies.

For more information, email the [VET Unit](#).

## Administrative advice

### Special Examination Arrangements applications

Refer to [Notice to Schools 21/2022](#).

### VASS new-user training

Refer to [Notice to Schools 23/2022](#).

### 2022 School-based Assessment Audit

Refer to [Notice to Schools 25/2022](#).

### Absence from School-based Assessment tasks due to COVID-19

Refer to [Notice to Schools 27/2022](#).

## 2022 Bach Competition

Applications for Melbourne Recital Centre's 2022 Bach Competition are now open for and soloists and ensembles of up to five members who are 17 years of age and under (at 1 January 2022).

The competition repertoire needs to be any work of JS Bach not exceeding 10 minutes in total duration. Applications close on Wednesday 27 April and finals will be held at Melbourne Recital Centre on Sunday 5 June.

Cash prizes of up to \$4000 are available to be won. For more information, go to the [Melbourne Recital Centre](#).