

VCAA Bulletin

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National review of CCAFL Project languages

Victorian teachers have an exciting opportunity to contribute to the review of the curriculum and external assessment of languages that are part of the national Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages (CCAFL; pronounced 'ku-kaf-el') Project.

Since 2001, the CCAFL Project has provided teachers with a consistent model for teaching and assessing languages that have a lower number of enrolments (or 'small candidature' studies). The 2016 Census tells us that more than 250 languages, apart from English and Koorie languages, are spoken in Victorian homes. Languages are an incredibly valuable part of our multicultural society.

In Victoria, students completing their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) can enrol in the following CCAFL studies: Armenian, Auslan, Bengali, Bosnian, Chin Hakha, Croatian, Dutch, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Karen, Khmer, Macedonian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Swedish, Tamil, Turkish and Yiddish.

The CCAFL Framework Renewal Project is in the process of renewing the curriculum and assessment for all VCE CCAFL studies for implementation at Year 11 in 2024.

The first stage in this process is to develop the curriculum and external assessment structure (the Framework) that will be shared by all languages involved in the review. Once the Framework is finalised, the remaining stages of the CCAFL Framework Renewal Project will begin. These involve language-specific materials and each state's school-based assessment and support materials.

Teachers of CCAFL languages, VCE Languages providers, school leaders and all other stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the draft Framework. This is an opportunity for Victorian stakeholders to contribute to the national review of the CCAFL curriculum and external assessment.

We are offering a webinar to outline and explain features of the proposed Framework, though stakeholders can complete the CCAFL feedback survey without participating in this webinar. Unpacking the draft Framework will be a great opportunity for interested community members to provide their input in this review.

For full details of the survey and webinar, visit the [CCAFL](#) webpage.

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Message from the CEO

Welcome to the March 2021 edition of the *VCAA Bulletin*.

It's been a busy start to the year for everyone involved in education in Victoria. After a tumultuous year in 2020, we are all hoping for a more settled 2021 for all educators, students and families. The annual cycle for the VCE and VCAL, preparation for NAPLAN and our curriculum supports are well underway. VCAA staff are also contributing to the Review of the Australian Curriculum with a number of key staff seconded to ACARA to support the review. As well as this core work, the VCAA is progressing a number of important projects and reforms to continue to enhance and improve education in Victoria. A brief update is provided below.



Senior Secondary Certificate Reform

The Senior Secondary review process continues as we play a pivotal role in implementing many of the Firth Report's recommendations, including:

- designing a new vocational specialisation to be embedded within the VCE
- developing a Foundation Pathways certificate to replace Foundation VCAL
- an enhanced statement of results that will include completed skill sets, such as first aid, in an integrated senior secondary certificate.

Curriculum and assessment review panels have been established and will begin reviewing the current curriculum later this month. Consultation activities have already begun with VCAA team members meeting with a range of stakeholder groups, including schools and providers that cater to vulnerable cohorts, and tertiary VCAL providers.

Consultation will continue across Term 1 with Principal briefings available across all sectors and regional briefing with practitioners. Draft certificate designs and study designs for the new Vocational Pathways will go to public consultation via *Engage Victoria* in Term 2.

Opportunities to hear about and contribute to discussions on these important reforms will continue throughout 2021.

General Achievement Test (GAT) Redevelopment

As part of the broader initiative to introduce minimum standards testing for Literacy and Numeracy, from 2022 the GAT will incorporate assessments of reading, writing and numeracy standards for both VCE and VCAL students. This year's administration of the GAT will remain unchanged.

Work is currently focused on conducting trialling with selected schools throughout 2021. The participation of schools in the trial is critical and greatly appreciated. More information about the introduction of these standards will be made available later in the year.

Digital Assessment Library (DAL)

It's great that schools are engaging with the VCAA's new DAL, following formal release in Term 4, 2020. There are now more than 700 schools accessing these high-quality formative assessments and over 29,000 assessments have been completed. All schools are able to access the DAL following initial registration by the principal, after which teachers can access a suite of assessments in English (Reading) and Mathematics (Levels 2–10) to provide information about student learning. Principals wishing to register to use the DAL are asked to contact the DAL helpdesk at vcaa.dal@education.vic.gov.au.

Additional assessments in Mathematics, Science and Critical and Creative Thinking Band Assessments (Bands 5–10) will be released by the end of Term 1.

I'm pleased to announce that we are offering sessions in utilising reporting data from the DAL diagnostically in late Term 1, to schools have registered to use the DAL. The sessions will be conducted by Professor John Munro Educational Psychology and Exceptional Learning, School of Education, Australian Catholic University and a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne. Details for registration for these free, online sessions are available on the DAL. I hope you have can take advantage of this opportunity.

NAPLAN Online Transition

In 2021, 817 schools will undertake NAPLAN online. In preparation for all remaining schools to transition to NAPLAN online in May 2022 the VCAA will be in contact in April 2021 to provide detail around getting schools ready to go online.

Welcome to Dr Sandra Woodman and Ms Sue Bell

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Sandra Woodman who was recently appointed as Executive Director, Assessment and Reporting following an extensive recruitment search. Dr Woodman brings significant educational and public service leadership experience to the position and holds a Bachelor of Science, Hons, from Monash University, a Diploma of Education from La Trobe University, and a PhD in Science and Mathematics Education from the University of Melbourne. Her previous roles have

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included Executive Director, School Improvement and Senior Education Improvement Leader, in the Department of Education Training's South Western Victoria Region, Principal of Blackburn High School, Assistant Principal, Vermont Secondary College and Lecturer at the University of Melbourne.

We are also very fortunate to have Sue Bell joining the VCAA team as the Executive Director, Senior Secondary Certificate Reform. Ms Bell brings a wealth of experience as President of the Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals (VASSP), as a former Principal of Wantirna College, and Assistant Principal and Acting Principal of Melbourne High School. She also has experience in the tertiary sector as Executive Principal of Monash College.

On behalf of the organisation, I am delighted to welcome Dr Woodman and Ms Bell to the VCAA.

Finally, I encourage everyone to check out the amazing work of last year's students as part of the 2020 Season of Excellence. This year's Season kicked off in late February with the Top Class Sound concert at the Athenaeum Theatre. Tickets are still available for the remaining Top Class concerts throughout March, which include both live and streamed performances.

All the best for the remainder of Term 1.



Stephen Gniel
Chief Executive Officer

Excellence & awards

VCE Season of Excellence 2021 in full swing

The [VCE Season of Excellence](#) opened on Friday 26 February 2021 with Top Class Sound, which streamed live from the Athenaeum Theatre. It featured performances of original music works by students who completed VCE Music Style and Composition or VCE Music Investigation in 2020. The works included classic chamber ensembles, jazz fusion, musical theatre and heavy metal.

The VCAA congratulates Lachlan Rae, recipient of the 2021 [Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarship for Composition](#). Lachlan presented his highly entertaining music theatre composition, *Boat Song*, during Top Class Sound. This year Lachlan will commence studying for a Bachelor of Music (Interactive Composition) at the University of Melbourne.

'It is a great honour to be placed in the ranks of other outstanding musicians who have received this award before me, especially considering the incredible legacy Margaret Schofield left behind for music in Australia,' said Lachlan. 'Performing my work at Top Class Sound was an incredible opportunity to put my end-of-year composition for VCE Music Style and Composition out there for the public to hear. It is very difficult, especially during these tumultuous times, to be able to get new works and compositions by Australian students heard by the public, so Top Class Sound was an incredible opportunity to show off the best that the class of 2020 had to offer.'

The Season continued with Top Talks, which was streamed live on Thursday 4 March, from the Village Roadshow Theatre at State Library Victoria. Four VCE Extended Investigation students shared their independent research in a series of 10-minute presentations. Recordings from this event will be available on the [Top Talks](#) webpage from April.

The next exciting event in the Season was [Top Class Drama and Top Class Theatre Studies](#), with four concerts at the Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne, on Tuesday 9 March and Wednesday 10 March.

The VCE Season of Excellence also includes Top Designs, Top Class Dance, Top Class Music, Top Arts, Top Screen and Top Acts. It showcases exemplary works by VCE and VCE VET students from 2020 across the performing arts, technology, design, visual arts and research studies.

You can find all dates, booking details, downloadable programs and additional information updates on the [Season Hub](#).



Twilight Webinar update

More than 450 educators participated in our first Twilight Webinar for 2021, “‘But do they do anything?’ Documentation and infant pedagogy’ on Monday 15 February. The webinar was designed to support educators working with children from birth to two years to better understand the skills and capabilities of young children. The guest speaker for this event was Dr Andi Salamon, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education at Charles Sturt University and the discussion was facilitated by the Early Years Unit.

The event was recorded and will be developed into smaller video vignettes so that educators can view parts of the conversation that they feel might have particular relevance to their practice. These vignettes could also be used in staff meetings to illuminate certain ideas and generate discussion and thinking. Additional reading materials also accompanied the webinar to encourage deeper engagement with the ideas discussed. A fact sheet that supports the ideas discussed in the webinar is also being developed by Dr Salamon and will be available on the Early Years professional learning webpage in the next few weeks.

Next Twilight Webinar: Tuesday 23 March

The next Twilight Webinar, ‘The challenges and opportunities of digital technologies for very young children: In conversation with Dr Anne Kennedy’, will be held on Tuesday 23 March 2021. This webinar is designed to support early childhood professionals to better understand how to be thoughtful, purposeful and deliberate in their use of technology in the early learning environment. Registrations for this event are now open.

Full details are available on the [Early Years professional learning](#) webpage. Subscribe to the [Early Years Alert](#) to find out about webinars scheduled in 2021.

Foundation–10

Curriculum

Professional learning for new teachers: Introducing the Victorian Curriculum

The VCAA’s comprehensive series of webinars introducing the Victorian Curriculum F–10 has now commenced, and interested educators are warmly invited to participate in one of the 30 webinars the VCAA will hold over the next 12 weeks.

This series is designed to support teachers who may be new to the Victorian Curriculum, graduate or casual relief teachers, CRT teachers or those wishing to refresh their understanding of the F–10 curriculum and its implementation.

Each webinar will provide teachers with an overview of a specific curriculum area, one for primary schools, and another for secondary schools. Presented by the VCAA’s curriculum managers, all webinars will cover the aim, rationale and essential curriculum content, where to find curriculum documentation and support resources, and how to assess student progress using the achievement standards. Each webinar will include a Q&A session, where participants can put their questions to the relevant VCAA Curriculum Manager.

[Register online](#) to attend and participate in one or more of these webinars.

Recordings of these webinars will be progressively published on the [F–10 Past professional learning](#) webpage.

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 ACER, these online languages assessments consist of a series of multiple-choice listening and reading assessments and are available in the following languages: 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 they can support the teaching of languages, visit the [Languages assessment](#) webpage.

To access the languages assessments, simply go to the [ACER](#) website.

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](#) webpage as they are confirmed.

Recordings of the first series of webinars can be accessed via the [F–10 past professional learning materials](#) webpage.

F–10 resources

Resources for implementing the capabilities

The VCAA has published a new resource in its suite of resources supporting a whole-school approach for implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 capabilities. The [school self-assessment tool](#) supports implementation in three interrelated areas: curriculum planning, explicit teaching and assessment, and transfer of learning.

The development of this tool has been informed by workshops with a wide range of stakeholders. Its development has taken into account typical barriers and enablers for implementing the capabilities, including those associated with building an understanding of the capabilities, fostering learning engagement, creating a culture across the school community that values the capabilities, and coordinating the delivery of the capabilities.

Download new financial literacy resources

The VCAA is publishing [new sample activities](#) promoting financial literacy for secondary school students. The sample activities are linked to Levels 9 and 10 of the Economics and Business curriculum, with topics including banking, personal budgets, taxation and investment.

Two documents are provided for each resource: one includes a comprehensive description of the activities, including teacher instructions and relevant Victorian Curriculum links, and the other contains printable resources for students and teachers.

Assessment

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

In 2021 the VCAA will conduct sample assessment programs in Critical and Creative Thinking and The Arts (Music and Visual Arts) with a sample of schools across Victoria. This is an exciting opportunity for schools that are invited to be involved in the collection of state-wide data to support Education State targets. The participation of students from sampled schools will play a significant role in the tracking of these important targets.

These are the 2021 assessment periods:

- The Arts (Music and Visual Arts)
Monday 24 May – Friday 25 June (Term 2, weeks 6–10)
Monday 12 July – Friday 13 August (Term 3, weeks 1–5)
- Critical and Creative Thinking
Monday 19 July – Friday 6 August (Term 3, weeks 2–4).

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.

For enquiries, contact Assessment Programs: (03) 9059 4172 or vcaa.education.state@education.vic.gov.au.

Victorian Certificate of Education

Curriculum

2021 VCE School-based Assessment Audit

All schools are audited each year for at least one VCE study, and all VCE studies are subject to the annual School-based Assessment Audit. The notification of Unit 3 requirements for the 2021 School-based Assessment Audit was on Tuesday 23 February through VASS.

The screen in VASS where schools can access the list of studies selected for audit at their school is School Program > VCE > School-based Assessment Audit (please ensure the search function is filtered to view Unit 3 studies only).

The first stage of the School-based Assessment Audit consists of a study-specific audit questionnaire that is completed online by teachers on behalf of the school. Responses to the audit questionnaire must be completed by Friday 19 March 2021 and detail the planned approach to assessment for Unit 3 in 2021.

The responses provided by schools to the audit questionnaire enable the VCAA to determine if School-based Assessment is following the specifications and requirements set out in the accredited VCE study design and VCE assessment principles. The audit is a necessary component of the VCAA's management of quality; its purpose is not punitive or personal.

Further information on the School-based Assessment Audit can be found on the [School-based Assessment Audit](#) webpage or the [VCE General Advice and Policy](#) webpage on the VCAA website. Any queries can be directed to the School-based Assessment Audit team: (03) 9059 5166 or school.assessment.vcaa@education.vic.gov.au.

Implementation briefings for revised studies

In 2021 the VCAA will conduct online implementation sessions for teachers of the newly accredited VCE studies of Bridging English as an Additional Language, Biology, Environmental Science, Geography, History, Classical Greek, Classical Hebrew, Latin, and Languages: Chinese First Language, Indonesian First Language, Japanese First Language, Korean First Language and Vietnamese First Language.

The VCAA has appointed the History Teachers Association of Victoria (HTAV) to organise a series of implementation sessions for VCE History. For details and registration information visit the [HTAV](#) website.

Details of the online sessions for the remaining VCE studies will be provided in the *VCAA Bulletin* and Notices to Schools during Term 1.

For further information, contact Robyn Douglass, Curriculum Program Manager: (03) 9032 1720 or robyn.douglass@education.vic.gov.au.

Evaluation of VCE Australian and Global Politics: Online monitoring questionnaire

The VCAA is monitoring the implementation of VCE Australian and Global Politics in schools and is collecting data to inform the evaluation process.

Teachers of VCE Australian and Global Politics, students and other interested stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the current VCE Australian and Global Politics study design via the online questionnaire, which is currently available on the [VCE Australian and Global Politics](#) study webpage and will close on Monday 22 March 2021.

For enquiries, contact Gerry Martin, Curriculum Manager, History/Civics: (03) 9059 5153 or Gerard.Martin@education.vic.gov.au.

Contribute to the CCAFL Framework Renewal Project: Webinar and consultation survey

The CCAFL Framework Renewal Project is in the process of renewing the curriculum and assessment for the CCAFL Continuer studies. All CCAFL language studies in the VCE are based on the Continuer Framework. The renewal of the Framework and the language studies based on it, is a collaboration between curriculum and assessment authorities from all participating states and the Northern Territory.

The VCAA encourages teachers of CCAFL Languages, VCE Languages providers, school leaders and other stakeholders to attend its webinar on Wednesday 17 March before completing the CCAFL online consultation survey. Full details about both the webinar and the online consultative survey are available on the [CCAFL](#) webpages.

Reminder: Consultation period for VCE Business Management study design

Refer to [Notice to Schools 23/2021](#).

Reminder: Consultation period for VCE Mathematics study design

Refer to [Notice to Schools 26/2021](#).

Reminder: Consultation period for VCE Religion and Society study design

Refer to [Notice to Schools 27/2021](#).

2021 VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) and VCE Literature text survey

Refer to [Notice to Schools 31/2021](#).

Applications for VCE Philosophy Units 3 and 4 text advisory panel

Refer to [Notice to Schools 32/2021](#).

Assessment

2021 VCE Assessor applications

Refer to [Notice to Schools 28/2021](#).

2021 VCE VET scored assessment webinars

Following on from our introduction and overview webinars, we are offering a series of program-specific webinars for each of the 14 VCE VET programs with scored assessment from Tuesday 9 March to Friday 26 March. All teachers, trainers and assessors of VCE VET scored programs are invited to attend. Registrations are now open on the [VET professional learning](#) webpage.

For more information, contact the VET Unit on (03) 9059 5195 or vet.vcaa@education.vic.gov.au.

VASS availability for VET enrolments

VET certificate enrolments on VASS have been loaded in stages with VE1 certificate types updated last. It is critical that VET coordinators check details of the certificate and units of competency (UoC) provided by the training provider against the VASS certificate structures before completing the student enrolment.

If units have been updated by the RTO, the reason for this is to be determined prior to contacting the VET Unit as BSB, ICT and HLT (First Aid) units do not need to be replaced unless they are imported into the qualification. It is also important to confirm that credit into the VCE or VCAL is what the RTO has indicated and will meet the requirements of the students.

VCE VET programs for 2021

There have been a number of changes to qualifications that make up VCE VET programs. These include programs that have been redeveloped for implementation in 2021. All VCE VET program webpages have been updated for 2021 to reflect any change; it is important for teachers to refer to the 2021 versions of program booklets.

The [VCE VET program changes for 2021](#) document provides individual program details for programs where:

- continuous improvement has resulted in UoC and/or program structure changes
- redevelopment has been undertaken and revised programs are to be implemented from 2021
- a revised scored Unit 3–4 sequence is available for the first time in 2021.

Note that there are no further changes in 2021 to qualifications that may have been endorsed late in 2020 (such as the Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation).

Changes to VCE VET programs are reflected in the program booklet available on individual [VCE VET program](#) webpages.

The following VCE VET programs have had changes to the 2020 structure. Teachers need to ensure that they are aware of the changes and deliver the correct units as published on the relevant [VCE VET program](#) webpage.

New qualifications:

- VCE VET Plumbing
- VCE VET Cisco.

New Unit 3–4 scored sequence:

- VCE VET Equine Studies.

Minor changes to units:

- VCE VET Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- VCE VET Business
- VCE VET Building and Construction
- VCE VET Civil Infrastructure
- VCE VET Community Services
- VCE VET Creative and Digital Media
- VCE VET Electrical Industry
- VCE VET Hair and Beauty
- VCE VET Information, Digital Media and Technology
- VCE VET Sport and Recreation.

High-level VET qualification applications are now due

Any qualification at Certificate IV or Diploma level is considered a 'High Level Qualification' for senior secondary purposes.

Schools or providers planning to deliver high-level VET qualifications in 2021 are reminded that an application must be submitted and approved prior to commencement of any training.

The latest application form and instructions for high-level VET qualifications are available on the [VET block credit recognition](#) webpage.

Season of Excellence 2021 – Top Designs

Teachers are reminded that Top Designs includes five VCE VET programs:

- VCE VET Creative Digital Media
- VCE VET Engineering
- VCE VET Furnishing
- VCE VET Integrated Technologies and
- VCE VET Music Industry (Sound Production).

Teachers are encouraged to bring this opportunity to the attention of their students from the beginning of the year in order to encourage them to strive for excellence. Details are available on the [Season of Excellence](#) webpage.

VCE VET State Reviewer vacancies for 2021

Applications are invited for the vacant VCE VET State Reviewer positions for 2021 in the VCE VET Kitchen Operations program area.

State Reviewers can be teachers of the program at Unit 3 and 4 level. The VCE VET State Reviewer is a paid position and those appointed are required to undertake a range of activities including participating in VCAA professional development, providing feedback and advice to schools and RTOs, assisting in the preparation of published advice regarding scored assessment, conducting coursework audits and preparing feedback as a result of the coursework audits. Appointments will be for the remainder of 2021 (that is, to 31 December).

For more information and to apply, contact the VET Unit: vet.vcaa@education.vic.gov.au.

Structured Workplace Learning Recognition

The [DET guidelines](#) for Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) have been amended due to the recent restrictions relating to COVID-19, so it is critical that schools are aware of these. Where students are undertaking SWL and wish to access SWL Recognition they should refer to the [VCAA guidelines](#).

Administrative advice

Professional development for newly appointed VASS users

In March, April, and May 2021, the VCAA will conduct professional development training specifically designed for VASS administrators who are new to their position or who have never used VASS. This will be particularly useful for new schools offering a VCE, VET or VCAL program for the first time in 2021.

It is strongly recommended that current VASS administrators mentor new administrators as part of their induction and handover in this very important role.

Refer to [Notice to Schools 30/2021](#).

Professional development

2021 VCE VET Scored Assessment webinars

Registrations for workshops are now open on the [VET professional learning](#) webpage. For more information, contact the VET Unit: (03) 9059 5195 or vet.vcaa@education.vic.gov.au.

Bulletin board

Victorian Student's Parliamentary Program (VSPP) 2021

The Department of Education and Training's VSPP program provides opportunities throughout the year for students and their schools to engage in immersive civics and citizenship activities aimed at improving students' understanding of parliamentary processes.

Following on from the National Schools Constitutional Convention for Year 11 and 12 students, a Local Parliamentary Convention (Secondary Schools) is planned for Term 2.

School applications close by Friday 26 March 2021. Visit the [National Curriculum Services](#) website for details.

Apprenticeship initiatives for students from March 2021

Apprenticeships Victoria encourages students to register their interest in participating in apprenticeship opportunities with the Big Build Project.

The Victorian Government is providing up to 1500 apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities per year to help Victorians who are finishing school or looking to reskill, to kickstart a career on some of the biggest and most iconic infrastructure projects in the state.

A Big Build training pathway will get students involved in some of Victoria's biggest projects, such as the North East Link and the new Footscray Hospital.

Full details are available on the [Apprenticeships Victoria](#) website.

2021 Melbourne Recital Centre's Bach Competition

Now in its 12th year, Melbourne Recital Centre's Bach Competition is dedicated to young musicians who are passionate about JS Bach.

The competition repertoire needs to be any work of JS Bach not exceeding 10 minutes in total duration. Soloists and ensembles of up to five members who are 17 years of age and under (as at 1 January 2021) are welcome to apply. Applications close on Wednesday 21 April 2021 at midnight and the finals will be held at Melbourne Recital Centre on Sunday 30 May 2021.

For further entry information and competing guidelines, visit the [Melbourne Recital Centre](#) website.