**Alex Shepherd -** Welcome to the briefing for the Victorian Pathway Certificate for 2024. My name is Alex Shepherd and I'm a VPC Senior Officer here at the VCAA. The Victorian Pathway Certificate has been designed to meet the needs of students who require flexibility and individualised programmes as they enter senior secondary schooling. The review into applied learning from 2019 suggested that the VPC incorporate Literacy and Numeracy units into a programme which also provides students with work and industry experience, pathways post school, and builds on the strengths and aspirations of the learners.

With the implementation of the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathway Certificate, students now have a range of pathway options. The Vocational Major is an appellation to the VCE. Students who complete the VCE VM will be able to access pathways into apprenticeships, traineeships, VET, university through alternate pathways, or the workplace. The Victorian Pathway Certificate is a foundation level pathway intended to be appropriate for a smaller number of students whose previous schooling experience has been interrupted for a range of reasons, or who are not yet ready to access the VCE or VCE VM. The VPC allows students to access pathways into continued secondary study, entry level VET, or into the workplace. Both are a two year pathway intended for senior secondary students.

**Leanne Venables** - Thanks, Alex, Hi, my name's Leanne Venables, and I'm a senior project officer on the VPC Certificate at the VCAA. VPC enrolment may be suitable for a student who has had a highly modified programme during their F to 10 years, is reengaging into the school environment, has had a transient experience with previous school enrolments, meets the eligibility for student with a disability, has a history of school refusal, and has additional or complex social or wellbeing needs that cannot be supported in the VCE or VCE VM through Special Provision supports.

One certificate to rule them all. The Victorian Pathway Certificate is one certificate that caters for so many students in different educational settings. The VPC is offered in Victorian specialist schools, re-engagement or Flexi providers, as well as mainstream schools. The certificate allows students to succeed in an applied learning setting while equipping them with skills, knowledge, values and capabilities to be an active and informed citizen, lifelong learner, and to be confident and creative as individuals. Year 10. Students have the opportunity to commence some units of the VPC Certificate in year 10. This depends on the educational setting and the student's individual education plan. Students who participate in the VPC can include units from VCE studies and the VCE Vocational Major studies, as well as units of competency from nationally recognised vocational education and training, courses or certificates. The Victorian Pathway Certificate is not designed to be delivered as a standalone programme prior to the student's senior secondary years.

For a student to be successful in completing their Victorian Pathway Certificate, they need to achieve a minimum of 12 units. Two of these units are of VPC or VM Literacy, two units of VPC or VCE VM Numeracy, two units of VPC Personal Development Skills, and two units of VPC Work Related Skills. You can include any additional VCE or Structured Workplace Learning recognition or VET units at a certificate 1 level or above.

Special provision is available to students completing the VPC for classroom learning and school-based assessment. Schools may approve special provisions and arrangements for both classroom learning and school-based assessments. Students may be eligible for special provision if at any time they are adversely affected in a significant way by an acute or chronic illness, factors relating to personal circumstances and impairment or disability, including learning disorders. Schools must decide whether to provide school-based provisions. The VCAA recognises that school personnel due to their knowledge of individual students and their circumstances can sensitively vary the school assessment programmes and learning activities to accommodate student circumstances.

The VCAA has introduced a Student Achievement Profile, which captures a wider range of student achievements. A Student Achievement Profile Summary will be issued for senior secondary students leaving school without a qualification in 2023 and 2024. It will present a holistic summary of the student's achievements captured during their senior secondary education and complement the existing statement of results. The Student Achievement Profile is an opportunity to recognise the student's achievements, not just their academic results or completed qualifications. This will mean that all students are celebrated for the learning they have achieved.

In 2023 and 2024, the Student Achievement Profile is available to VCE, VCE Vocational Major, and Victorian Pathway Certificate students who are exiting senior secondary schooling without a qualification. This ensures that students who have previously executed senior secondary at the end of year 11, and who would've received a VCAL Certificate will have a statement that recognises their achievements during the transition period from VCAL to VC VM June 2023 and 2024.

There are eligibility requirements to ensure students receiving the Student Achievement Profile are genuinely exiting senior secondary education. VCE students must have satisfactorily completed at least eight units but not have completed their VCE. VPC students must have satisfactorily completed at least one unit, but not have completed their VPC. Schools will be able to request a Student Achievement Profile for exiting eligible students in 2023 and 2024 in VASS. More information can be found in VCE Notice to Schools.

The Victorian Pathways Certificate has four areas of study Work Related Skills, Personal Development Skills, Literacy and Numeracy. Each study has four units. All VPC units can be completed in any order and in any year. The units can be delivered in a flexible manner and do not need to be delivered sequentially. There's no prerequisite for entry into any of the units. The four studies within the VPC are described within the curriculum designs. The VPC is structured around units which are broken up into modules. Students are required to demonstrate the learning goals within each module. The applications describe how students might demonstrate progress in those learning goals. The student can then be assessed in a variety of ways from a written report through to digital presentation.

Both the VCE VM and the VPC are based around applied learning. The VCAA has developed the Five Pillars of Applied Learning, a tool designed to support teachers and schools to develop and deliver the curriculum in an applied manner, with students at the centre of the design. The pillars are Motivation to engage in learning, Applied learning practises, Student agency, Student centred and flexible approach, and Assessment practises that promote success. The pillars underpin all the studies in the VPC and the VCE VM certificates. The Victorian Pathway Certificate is based on an applied learning approach to teaching, ensuring that every student feels empowered to make informed choices about the next stages of their lives through experiential learning and authentic learning experiences. And you can find out more information on the VCAA website with the VCE VM, and VPC curriculum where the pillars are described in full with a range of other resources to support your understanding of them.

In 2026, three of the six new studies will be available for delivery within the VPC Certificate. These first studies will be food, art, and design and digital literacy. In 2027, the final three studies of science and sustainability, health and wellbeing, civics and entrepreneurship will be able to be delivered to students. These are only interim names for the studies. The inclusion of these studies will develop students' knowledge and skills through an applied learning pedagogy. The new VPC studies will be designed as two un-sequenced units that can be taught in any order at any time in relation to the current curriculum. These studies will be designed to be flexible and adaptable to ensure that they're accessible.

For example, if a school doesn't have a fully equipped kitchen or their kitchen isn't accessible for some students, they can adapt the curriculum to use electric fry plans or differentiate the recipes to suit the students. The studies will be low cost. Schools will be able to utilise existing staff and physical resources and run these electives in their schools. If you already have a music room or an art room, for example, you'll be able to use these resources. These new VPC studies are aimed at specialist schools and re-engagement settings that currently don't offer any VCE units and have limited access to VET certificate one. Students who have started the VPC can change into the VCE, VCE VM certificate.

However, satisfactorily completed units of the VPC cannot be put towards the award of the VCE VM. If while undertaking the VPC students satisfactorily complete any VCE, VCE VM, VET units or units of competency, then these can be credited into the VCE or VCE VM certificates. When transferring a student between certificates, this needs to be completed on VASS. The last date for enrolments or changes into units 3-4 must be completed by April 30th. When transferring students between certificates, it is important to remember that there are different minimum requirements for each certificate type. Please refer to the 2024 VCE or VPC administrative handbooks available on the VCAA website for more information about the minimum requirements for each certificate.

As you can see from this slide, we have also included a number of additional considerations from each pathway option to support education staff in discussing the most appropriate pathways for their students. As you can see on this slide, all VPC enrolments and S or N results need to be submitted by the 18th of November. For information about enrolment dates and other important administrative dates for the VPC, please follow the link to the VCAA website for more information. In addition to the VCE VM coordinator checklist, the VPC coordinator checklist has been developed and will be available online soon. It outlines specific processes that coordinators, teachers and additional school staff may require for setting up VPC classes and running them effectively, whilst also keeping in mind the Pillars of Applied Learning.

You can find out more information about the VPC on the VCAA website, including the reform background, curriculum designs, support materials, sample unit plans, professional learning resources, and the VPC Administrative Handbook. The VCAA have 17 groups covered by Community of Practise leaders across Victoria. The CoP leaders are highly experienced applied learning teachers who are there to facilitate meetings, invite guest speakers, and a support existing applied learning staff. Specialists and flexi schools have their own CoP leaders who are there also to support staff in these settings. Meetings are usually held once to twice a term. If you would like to join a community of practise, please see the link below.

If you would like any more information, please contact the Senior Secondary Certificate Reform, or the Applied Learning Unit in the emails below.

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