**Anna Fee -** Welcome to the overview briefing for the VCE Vocational Major for 2024. Vocational and Applied Learning in Victoria changed in 2023. The VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate have been introduced and designed to improve Vocational and Applied Learning pathways for senior secondary students in Victoria.

The reforms implemented from 2023 will ensure Vocational and Applied Learning is consistent, supported by strengthened curriculum, clear quality assurance tools, and reporting methods. The reforms will improve perceptions associated with Vocational and Applied Learning Pathways, and ensure these pathways have an equal reputation with the VCE, and are seen as valid options for all students. Finally, the reforms will reduce the complexity of Vocational and Applied Learning in schools and improve student outcomes.

This graphic depicts the structure, study options, and pathways for secondary school students in Victoria, at a glance. With the introduction of the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate, students have a wide range of pathway options in their secondary schooling years. The Vocational Major is a senior secondary appellation to the VCE, meaning it is a way for students to attain their VCE with an applied and vocational learning focus. Students who complete the VCE VM will be able to access pathways into apprenticeships, traineeships, VET, University through alternate pathways, or straight into the workplace.

The Victorian Pathways Certificate is a foundation secondary pathway, intended to be appropriate for a smaller number of students whose previous schooling experience has been interrupted for a range of reasons, who received modified programmes prior to senior secondary school, or who are not yet ready or able to access a senior secondary course like the VCE or VCE VM. The VPC allows students to access pathways into continued senior secondary study, entry-level VET, or into the workplace. For more information about the VPC, see the 2024 VPC briefing video on this site. Both the VCE VM and the VPC are two-year pathways intended for secondary students in the final years of schooling.

**Nicola** - The minimum requirements to complete the VC VM include a minimum of 16 units, three units of VCE VM Literacy, or any VCE English, including a 3-4 sequence, three other unit 3-4 sequences. Two units of VCE VM Numeracy or any VCE maths. Two units of VCE VM Personal Development Skills. Two units of VCE VM Work Related Skills. 180 nominal hours of VET. And can also include VCE Structured Workplace Learning Recognition or VET. at Certificate II level or above.

The VCAA has introduced the 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 a 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 Pathways Certificate students who are exiting senior secondary school without a qualification. This ensures that students who may have previously exited senior secondary at the end of year 11, and who would have received a VCAL certificate will have a statement that recognises their achievements during the transition period, from VCAL to VCE VM during 2023 and 2024.

There are eligibility requirements to ensure that 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 later in 2023 and in 2024 via VASS.

More information will be sent out via the VCAA's Notice to Schools. The VCE Vocational Major has four areas of study. Each study contains four units, Work Related Skills, Personal Development Skills, Literacy, and Numeracy. The four studies within the VCE VM are described within the Study Designs. The VCE VM Study Designs are structured around units 1 - 2 and units 3 - 4. Each unit is made up of areas of study, each of which contains an outcome students are to demonstrate, which is broken into key knowledge and key skills, which describe what students should be able to know and do in order to demonstrate the outcome.

**Anna Fee** - The VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate are built around Applied Learning. It is the central pedagogical approach to both certificates and the five Pillars of Applied Learning underpin each of the VCE VM and VPC studies. The VCE VM and VPC are 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.

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 and keep students at the centre. The pillars are, motivation to engage in learning, Applied Learning practises, student agency, student-centred flexible approach, assessment practises that promote success. The pillars underpin all the studies in the VPC and the VCE VM, and should be the centre of teaching practise.

You can find more information on the VCAA website and within the VCE and VPC curriculum designs, where the pillars are described in full with a range of other resources to support your understanding and application of them. The administrative arrangements for the VCE VM are closely aligned with the arrangements for the VCE General. You can see the VCE Administrative Handbook for more information, and the Administrative Arrangements Briefing video on this site. Just like the Administrative Arrangements, the VCE VM key dates align closely with the VCE General key dates.

As the VCE VM does not have scored assessment to report, there are fewer critical dates that apply to the VCE VM. The three dates to keep in mind are unit 3 - 4 VCE VM enrolment cutoff, which is the 30th of April. Unit 1-2 VCE VM enrolment cutoff, which is the 18th of November. And units 1 - 4 VCE VM -S/N results submission, which is also on the 18th of November. You can find more information about this on the 2024 Important Administrative Dates on the VCAA website. In 2023, the VCAA had in place a number of transition arrangements for students moving from the VCAL into the VCE VM or the VPC. While most of these are no longer relevant, there are credit arrangements in place for students who partially completed Intermediate VCAL in 2023 or prior, or who are continuing into the VCE VM or VPC with VCAL credit from previous years. For more information, please see the VCAA website, or get in touch with the Senior Secondary Certificate Reform Division at the email address shown at the end of this slideshow.

The VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate are separate certificates, one at a senior secondary level, and the other at a foundation secondary level. However, it is possible for a student to transfer between these certificates, but there are a number of considerations to keep in mind when thinking about such a move. These include the best programme and outcome for the student, remembering that the VCE VM is a senior secondary certificate, and the VPC is a foundation secondary certificate.

The credit arrangements between the VM and the VPC. VM units can credit toward the VPC completion, but VPC units cannot credit towards the VM. And finally, the minimum requirements for each certificate, particularly the requirement that VPC students satisfactorily complete at least two units of Work Related Skills and Personal Development Skills at the VPC level. Once again, for more information, get in touch with the Senior Secondary Certificate Reform Division, or see the VCE or VPC Administrative Handbook. There are a number of flexible delivery options for the VCE VM, and schools have a range of options they can undertake to suit the needs of their students. This page outlines each of those flexible delivery options. Some require application through the VCAA and some do not. If you believe your school may benefit from offering flexible delivery in one of these formats, please follow the link and contact the Permissions team for more information. You can also contact the Permissions team to determine if your school has flexible delivery permissions already in place.

The VCAA has developed a coordinator checklist to assist schools and coordination teams to consider all of the processes and decisions they may need to make to set up and successfully run a VCE VM programme. This checklist is available on the VCAA website, and for more information, please feel free to get in touch with the Reform team to discuss those considerations. You can find out more about the VCE Vocational Major on the VCAA website, including background to the reform, the Study Designs for each of the four key studies, support materials and sample unit plans to help you deliver those studies, further professional learning resources, and the VCE Administrative Handbook.

In 2024, the VCAA will continue to deliver a range of supports and professional learning activities to ensure teachers, schools, and providers are supported and prepared to continue to deliver the VCE VM and the VPC with confidence and fidelity. These will include face-to-face professional learning workshops, webinars, online modules on our learning platform, and curriculum and pedagogical support for teachers through our communities of practise. For more information on any of these supports, please visit the Professional Learning page on the VCAA website.

The Applied Learning Communities of Practise are the newest professional learning and support option from the VCAA, which have been in place from 2023 with the intention of bringing teachers of Applied Learning together. The communities of practise provide Applied Learning support to teachers in the form of a robust local area network that focuses on the collaborative development of high quality curriculum and pedagogical practise. There are 17 community of practise groups across Victoria, including a flexible setting focused community of practise, and four specialist school setting focused communities of practise. The communities are led by expert Applied Learning practitioners who are highly experienced Applied Learning teachers, there to facilitate meetings, invite guest speakers, provide other professional learning, and support Applied Learning staff to develop and deliver the best programmes possible. If you would like to join a community of practise, please see the link below, or get in touch with the Senior Secondary Certificate Reform Division.

**Nicola** - 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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