**[Kellie Heintz]:** Hi, and welcome to our presentation about the proposed changes to VCE English as an additional language or EAL that forms part of the revised VCE English and EAL study design. I'm Kellie Heintz and I am the EAL Curriculum Manager at the VCAA. And I'm joined today by Annelise Balsamo who is the English Curriculum Manager.

So, we had one central question about EAL when we began the review in 2019, and this was about the viability and the place of the joint study. We were very aware of the many challenges, both pedagogically and logistically that the current study design has created for teachers of EAL students, particularly for those teaching in schools with combined English and EAL classes.

On the question of English and EAL in a joint study, we conducted a great deal of research about the history of the joint study and its benefits and limitations. The study is longstanding as old as the VCE itself, but we wanted to explore if it was still fit for purpose. So on balance, we decided to retain the current model of the joint study. This decision was taken predominantly to protect tertiary pathways for EAL students. Having made that decision, we then turned our attention to designing a study that provided a clear curriculum for both cohorts, but was also possible to teach in a combined English EAL classroom of which there are many across the state of Victoria.

Before we began the task of designing the curriculum, we developed a set of five EAL principles that captured what we aim to achieve through the development of the new curriculum and what underpin the decisions we made in the process.

The first EAL principle makes a direct link to the new Victorian curriculum F-10 EAL and uses the new EAL pathways as a reference. It provides schools with information about the level of English proficiency required by a student to be able to access the VCE EAL study design.

The second principle recommends that the new study design includes a focus on English language acquisition and the areas that need to be covered in order for students to develop these skills.

The third principle recognises that the EAL curriculum needs to provide space for EAL learners to engage in multiple speaking and listening opportunities. These became even more important with the removal of Unit 3 Outcome 3, listening to text, which was a standalone EAL learning task that created significant issues in combined English and EAL classrooms.

Principle four acknowledges that EAL students require more time than their English peers to read sustained text and to develop their own writing. Finally, it was considered important that EAL students are afforded opportunities to explore their own as well as Australian cultural knowledge and understanding.

So we've designed the curriculum as follows. The knowledge and skills are identical for both the English and the EAL learners. These have been broadened to meet the needs of both cohorts. Some of the outcomes statements and assessment tasks however, are differentiated to provide support and scope for different approaches to the knowledge and skills. The outcome statements and the tasks sit side by side in the document to indicate shared value. There are no additional or distinct areas of study or outcomes for either English or EAL students in this study design.

It was determined that all students, not just EAL would benefit from a curriculum that included opportunities to explore cultural knowledge and understandings. As a result, EAL principle five was broadened to encompass cultural references that would enrich the learning of both the EAL and English cohorts.

The proposed writing outcomes allow EAL students to develop more personal and authentic written pieces instead of only engaging in analytical writing which is a dominant focus in the current study design. There has also been a reduction in the requirement for EAL students to read complex and sustained texts to allow more time for comprehension and meaning-making.

As always, you're welcome to get in touch with either Annelise and myself. Our contact details are on this final slide. Thank you for taking the time to watch this presentation.

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