

VCAA Bulletin

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

No. 79 | June 2022 | ISSN 1448-2371



Become an assessor

The VCAA relies on the invaluable work and contribution of Victorian teachers and educators every year. This includes putting up their hands to be on study advisory panels, providing feedback on curriculum consultations and contributing to the development of examinations. Without the support of teachers and educators, we would be unable to support Victoria's young people in the form of providing world-class curriculum and assessment resources and practices.

Applications are currently open for teachers and educators to assist with marking 2022 VCE written examinations and the General Achievement Test (GAT).

Assessors perform a vital role within the VCAA assessment process, ensuring all students receive fair and consistent assessment. Being part of the assessment process can be a very rewarding and satisfying experience that can inform and enhance teaching and learning practice. It is an excellent paid professional development activity that is officially recognised by the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

In general, VCE examination and GAT assessors should have relevant tertiary or education qualifications and current or recent teaching experience in the VCE study they will assess. We also seek to recruit a balance and distribution of teachers across the school sectors (government, Catholic and independent) and locations (metropolitan and regional).

Karen Graham has been a VCE assessor for many years and involved in assessing the GAT since its inception.

'Assessing is wonderful in terms of what it can bring to you, to your classroom, to your students the way it can refine your own skills, the confidence that it gives you, the reassurance that you're on the right track and you're doing the right thing,' says Karen.

'The moment you move into assessment, you start to become aware of how important criteria is and you learn how to understand what a criteria statement means and how to apply a criteria statement to a particular task. Suddenly you become aware of things that students do that perhaps you'd never thought of, strategies that you weren't aware of, that you become aware of in their work.'

continued on [page 3](#)

Contents

Message from the CEO	3		
Excellence and awards		Administrative advice	
Top Acts 2022	4	Glossary of command terms	9
Early Years		General Achievement Test exemption policy	9
New videos and fact sheet	5	General Achievement Test student report available on VASS	9
Next Twilight Webinar	5	Release of the 2022 VCE examination timetable	9
Find out more	5	2022 VCE performance examination student scheduling	9
Foundation–10		Training for conducting and administering 2022 VCE external assessments, including the GAT	9
Curriculum	6	Apply to be a 2022 GAT assessor	9
New Technologies posters to support curriculum implementation in specialist schools	6	Bulletin board	
Bushfire Education	6	History Rising conference	10
Stay up to date	6	Continuity of Early Learning	10
Victorian Certificate of Education			
Curriculum	6		
VCE Music study design (2023–2027) implementation resources	6		
VCE Biology (2022–2026) Unit 4 frequently asked questions	6		
Senior Secondary Certificate Reform			
Professional learning opportunities	7		
Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning			
Mid-year VCAL certification	7		
Vocational Education and Training			
Eligibility reports for VET students	8		
Structured Workplace Learning booklets	8		
Apply to be a VCE VET reference group member	8		
Nominations extended for the 2022 Victorian Training Awards	8		

The VCAA *Bulletin* is authorised and published by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. Principals are advised to encourage teaching staff to have an [individual subscription](#). [Notices to Schools](#) are also available on the VCAA website.

The VCAA does not endorse the products or services of any external organisation's articles published in the VCAA *Bulletin*.

Editorial and subscription enquiries: (03) 9032 1634 or vcaa.bulletin@education.vic.gov.au.

© VCAA 2022 | ISSN 1448-2371



‘You take all of that back into the classroom and it really improves the standard of your teaching significantly.’

Apply through the Sessional Staff Management System (SSMS) by the following closing dates:

- Sunday 12 June – for GAT Leading Assessor applications
- Friday 24 June – for VCE written examinations
- Sunday 26 June – for GAT Assessor applications.

To find out more, go to the [Why be a VCE examination assessor](#) and [Apply to be a GAT assessor 2022](#) pages.

Message from the CEO

The month of June began with National Reconciliation Week, a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. This year’s theme, ‘Be brave. Make change’, reminds us of the things we can all do in our daily lives to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation every day of the year.

I encourage you to go to the [Reconciliation Australia website](#) and learn more about how we can take action towards acknowledging and paying respect to the culture, spirit and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



NAPLAN

I am delighted to report that this year’s NAPLAN online proceeded without any significant challenges. Thank you to everyone who supported the delivery and I look forward to seeing the results later in the year.

VCE examination timetable

Students and teachers alike have been eagerly scanning the [VCE examination timetable](#), which is now available on the VCAA website. Every year, this milestone heralds the significance of final year preparations in supporting students to find their best pathways. My fingers are crossed that 2022 continues without the interruptions of the past two years and that we will finally see the long-awaited return to normal.

Many Talents One VCE

It has been exciting to see the rollout of the ‘Many Talents One VCE’ campaign across our screens and in the media. It is the culmination of months of planning and collaboration with the Department of Education and Training and I applaud everyone who contributed to making it happen. If you’ve not yet seen the campaign, I encourage you to take a look on the [Victorian Government website](#).

Keep warm!

Stephen Gniel
Chief Executive Officer

Top Acts 2022

Top Acts, the concluding event in the 2022 VCE Season of Excellence, lit up the stage on Friday 20 May at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Thirty-five young performers and creators were selected to showcase their talents in one stunning event, curated by Artistic Director Candy Bowers.

The dynamic concert included exceptional dance, drama, theatre studies, music and media works created by VCE and VCE VET students from the class of 2021.

Suzu Chandler, Executive Director of Curriculum, opened the concert by remarking 'Top Acts is not only a celebration of high achievement in education, it also showcases the next generation of creators.'

Minister James Merlino, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Mental Health, recorded a video message for Top Acts, in which he acknowledged the resilience of these emerging performers.

'Despite the challenges of the pandemic, these young artists have continued to hone their craft, supported by their teachers and assessors,' he said.

'Art unites us. Uplifts us. It is the ultimate expression of our shared humanity.'

Top Acts 2022 was a wonderful celebration of the arts in the education sector and beyond, and we thank the performers, their teachers, families and supporters.



Rufaro Zimbudzi from Haileybury performing their Drama Solo, based on civil rights leader Ida B. Wells.



Kate Pengelly from Virtual School Victoria and Box Hill High School conducts a choir, performing Kate's original composition *Missä Brevis*.

New videos and fact sheet

You can now access a series of short videos titled '[Enhancing and extending children's fine motor development through playful learning experiences: A conversation with Dr Anoo Bhojti](#)', and a [fact sheet](#) to support the video content.

Next Twilight Webinar

[Register now](#) for the June Twilight Webinar 'Digital technology in the early years: The importance of everyday learning opportunities to build young children's digital technology skills'. The guest speaker for this event is Professor Susan Edwards, Director of the Early Childhood Futures research program in the Institute for Learning Sciences and Teacher Education at Australian Catholic University. Professor Edwards is lead Chief Investigator on a major Australian Research Council Linkage Project awarded to develop an online tool to guide the use of digital technology for service providers in early childhood.

The event will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 15 June.

This webinar will support early childhood professionals working with children aged birth to 5 years of age to:

- broaden their understanding of how to include digital technology in the early years
- explore effective strategies to embed play-based digital practices
- support children's concept development relating to digital technologies.

Find out more

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

For any further queries, email the [Early Years Unit](#) or call (03) 9059 4584.

Curriculum

New Technologies posters to support curriculum implementation in specialist schools

The VCAA has produced a series of illustrated posters to support teachers implementing Levels C and D (Towards Foundation) in the Design and Technologies and Digital Technologies curriculums in specialist schools.

These bright and engaging [Design and Technologies posters](#) and [Digital Technologies posters](#) use clear text and simple illustrations to represent the Levels C and D content descriptions – from exploring the tools and equipment to grow vegetables in Design and Technologies to following instructions to print an image in Digital Technologies.

We encourage teachers and specialist schools to download, print and display these posters in either A3 or A2 size.

Bushfire Education

The VCAA offers teachers bushfire educational resources that are aligned to the Victorian Curriculum F–10. Our [Bushfire Education](#) pages offer a series of sequenced lesson plans under the themes of learning about, preparing for, responding to and recovering from bushfires, with the aim of better preparing all young Australians for the challenges of living in a country that regularly experiences bushfires. Each lesson plan has a specific learning intention and links to the relevant curriculum areas and additional resources.



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](#).

Victorian Certificate of Education

Curriculum

VCE Music study design (2023–2027) implementation resources

Refer to [Notice to Schools 79/2022](#).

VCE Biology (2022–2026) Unit 4 frequently asked questions

Refer to [Notice to Schools 81/2022](#).

Senior Secondary Certificate Reform

Professional learning opportunities

Teachers and educators are invited to join our [professional learning opportunities](#) about the VCE Vocational Major (VM) and Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC).

Timetable Support webinar – Wednesday 22 June, 3.30pm

This webinar will highlight effective ways to support student subject choices in Years 11 and 12. You will learn how to develop common timetables and systems. Register through [Webex](#).

Applied Learning in Practice workshops – throughout Term 3

These workshops will assist you to:

- understand the new study designs and 'Advice for Teachers' publications
- build capacity in applied learning approaches
- develop student-centred and engaging projects connected to the real world and the community
- network with teachers from similar schools.

Please [register early](#).

Professional Learning Platform – ongoing

The [Professional Learning Platform](#) provides on demand learning modules on a variety of topics to support schools to implement the VCE VM and the VPC.

Current courses include:

- Authorisations
- Career Practitioners advice
- Credit arrangements
- Certificate overviews.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

Mid-year VCAL certification

Refer to [Notice to Schools 78/2022](#).

Eligibility reports for VET students

As the mid-year certification for VCAL is approaching, it is important for schools to run VCAL eligibility reports following the completion of their VET enrolments. Please note that the VET eligibility report may be misleading and the Student Full Details Report from VASS should be used to identify the credit students may receive from their VET enrolment.

Structured Workplace Learning booklets

Updated [Structured Workplace Learning Booklets](#) for 2022 are available for download.

Apply to be a VCE VET reference group member

The role of the reference group is to provide advice and recommendations on the program development and implementation of a VCE VET program that is undergoing a review. The reference group work collaboratively with the VCAA on the program development.

This is an opportunity for trainers and teachers to provide direct insights and advice on draft program structures, choice of units of competency and the sequence of a VCE VET program. Reference group members have knowledge and expertise in a specific VCE VET program or industry area and represent metropolitan and regional areas across all sectors in Victoria.

Reference groups are being held this year for the following VCE VET programs:

- Agriculture and Horticulture
- Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- Community Services
- Furnishing
- Hair and Beauty
- Health
- Hospitality (Hospitality and Kitchen Operations)
- Laboratory Skills
- Sport and Recreation.

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

Nominations extended for the 2022 Victorian Training Awards

In 2022, the [Victorian Training Awards](#) mark their 68th year of celebrating the outstanding achievements of apprentices, students, teachers, employers and training providers in the VET sector.

You may want to nominate yourself, your students, your organisation, or someone else you know.

Award winners will be announced at a gala ceremony in September and will receive \$5,000 in prize money and a trophy. Winners in select categories represent Victoria at the Australian Training Awards in Adelaide in November.

Nominations are [now open](#) and close on midnight on Friday 17 June.

The awards team can put you in touch with professional support to review the nomination and make sure it is of the highest quality. This is a free service available to all nominators.

Categories available for VCE or VCAL students, teachers or Training Providers include:

- School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year
- Teacher/Trainer of the Year
- Training Provider of the Year (multiple categories).

Glossary of command terms

The [glossary of command terms](#) provides a list of terms commonly used across the Victorian Curriculum F–10, VCE study designs and VCE examinations.

The glossary can be used by:

- teachers across F–10 and VCE to develop internal assessment tasks and prepare students for tests and examinations
- examination panels in the development of assessment items for external examinations.

Students may benefit from using the glossary in the context of questions and tasks they are working on as opposed to learning the terms in isolation.

General Achievement Test exemption policy

Refer to [Notice to Schools 76/2022](#).

General Achievement Test student report available on VASS

Refer to [Notice to Schools 77/2022](#).

Release of the 2022 VCE examination timetable

Refer to [Notice to Schools 80/2022](#).

2022 VCE performance examination student scheduling

Refer to [Notice to Schools 82/2022](#).

Training for conducting and administering 2022 VCE external assessments, including the GAT

Refer to [Notice to Schools 83/2022](#).

Apply to be a 2022 GAT assessor

Refer to [Notice to Schools 84/2022](#).

History Rising conference

Registrations are open for the History Teachers' Association of Victoria's annual conference, [History Rising](#), on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 July.

The conference will feature an impressive range of workshops, lectures and practical seminars to help build on student learning outcomes.

Registrations close Tuesday 19 July. Early-bird rates are available until Wednesday 13 July.

Continuity of Early Learning

The Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership (the Academy) is offering an online course with an emphasis on supporting children and families experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage. The course focuses on strengthening early learning partnerships that have the biggest impact on a child's transition to school.

The course is designed for teams of between 3 to 6 people, comprising any combination of principal, assistant principal, early childhood services, primary schools, outside-school-hours care and support service providers.

Applications close Thursday 30 June and the course commences Friday 15 July.

For more information and to apply, go to the Academy's [Continuity of Early Learning](#) page.