**Stephen Gniel:** Hi, I'm Steve Gniel, Chief Executive Officer, of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, The VCAA. In Victoria, around 50,000 students undertake the Victorian Certificate of Education, the VCE, each year. This requires the support of not only VCAA staff, but also many sessional staff, to produce examinations for each of them more than 90 VCE and VCE VET studies, experienced and qualified VCE examination development panel members are required.

To assess student performance on the examinations and other external assessments, the VCAA also needs many qualified teachers for assessors and chief assessor's roles. And for the school-based assessment component of the VCE studies, the VCAA requires state reviewers who support the school-based assessment audit process.

This creates multiple opportunities for you to become involved in VCE external and school-based assessments. If you're a teacher, you can draw on your knowledge about VCE curriculum and assessment and develop it further through these roles. These videos provide information about what the roles entail and how you can find out more information and apply.

You'll hear the stories of people who have been involved in various examination settings and assessment roles. You'll hear how they contributed powerfully to fair, valid, and reliable assessments for all Victorian students. If you apply for and undertake, one of these roles, you'll work on assessment contributing to the opportunities of all Victorian students, as they move to post-secondary pathways. I strongly encourage you to apply for these roles.

**Announcer:** The VCAA seeks applications from teachers to undertake the role of state reviewer for VCE and VCE VET. VCE State Reviewers are employed by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. They lead the work of the school-based assessment audit panel each year, provides feedback and advice to schools, assists in the preparation of published advice, and supports the work of the VCAA in auditing school assessed coursework and school assessed tasks.

**Brett Lamb:** I think when I first started the role, I didn't really understand what the coursework audit involved, but one of the things that process taught me was the ability to communicate both with clarity, but also in a really supportive way, because I think at its core, the coursework audit is an opportunity for teachers to learn more about the study and how it should be delivered and accessed.

**Announcer:** State reviewer positions for VCE studies are appointed for two years. The state reviewer position may be held for up to six years of continuous service. After this time, the position may only be extended in exceptional circumstances. The VCE studies for which State Reviewers are required, are listed every year in the VCAA bulletin.

**Brett Lamb:** The role of State Reviewer really helps to crystallise your understanding of how assessment feeds into the curriculum. And it's not just about gauging student performance, it's about providing students with tasks that give them the opportunity to demonstrate that understanding and those skills. And that's so really important.

**Announcer:** A VCE State Reviewer should currently be teaching or have recently taught the relevant study at units three and four level.

**Brett Lamb:** I think schools very much value those who have a statewide assessment experience, whether that's in the role of an examiner or a chief examiner or a state reviewer, those teachers are appreciated by their schools because they have a really deep understanding of the study, they've got a deep understanding of assessment and they can bring all of that experience back into their own classrooms. If you're thinking of applying for the role of state reviewer, it's a really important one in terms of supporting students across the state, because it gives you an opportunity to ensure that the VCE is administered in a way that is really fair and accessible for students and gives them the opportunity to excel.

**Announcer:** The VCAA will advertise VCE State Reviewer positions as vacant in October and November, each year for an initial two-year period, beginning in January. Applications can be lodged via the Sessional Staff Management System.

**Brett Lamb:** The role of state reviewer lets you augment your practise in a number of ways. First of all, there's that really deep understanding of not only the study design and the curriculum, but also how it's assessed and the variety of ways that we can assess students to support their learning. It's sharpened my assessment skills. So in the process of working on the study design and in the process of working on the assessment descriptors for the school assess task, I've been able to write some really fantastic assessment tasks to my students. So I think it really has improved my ability to do that.

I think, as a teacher as well, it's really fantastic to take on a role like this and get a sense that you're not just a, you know, an individual teacher in your classroom, but you're part of a wider system. And taking on the role of the state reviewer really helped me to realise that I am part of something that is bigger than just my classroom.

There are a number of opportunities in this role for professional growth and learning. You'll be working with the curriculum manager who's an expert in that particular subject. You'll also have the opportunity to work with a number of people from different fields. For example, when we were doing the major review of the study, we had a number of people from industry, but also from tertiary institutions working on that as well. So it really is an opportunity to meet to network and to learn from those sort of people.

I would totally encourage teachers to take on the role of state reviewer. Not only does it give you a great insight into teaching and learning across the state, it gives you a wonderful understanding of the study design. It gives you an opportunity to work with a huge range of very talented and very passionate people. And it is one of the best things that you will do in terms of your professional learning.

**Announcer:** You can apply online via the VCAA's Sessional Staff Management System, SSMS.

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