

9 May 2024

Dr Amanda McGraw
Acting President
Victorian Association for the Teaching of English
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Dear Dr McGraw

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 April 2024 regarding concerns raised about VCE Literature.

The VCAA acknowledges the important role the VCAA external assessment reports play in supporting teachers and students and does endeavour to publish these reports as soon as possible in the year following the examination being conducted. We also recognise the role that Subject Associations conferences play in supporting teachers and do seek to publish the relevant external assessment reports in time for these conferences each year.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances that occurred earlier in the year, the publication of the Literature External Assessment Report was delayed. I acknowledge the timing of this publication meant that attendees at the VATE Conference on 5 March 2024 did not have access to the report and apologise for the inconvenience this caused.

The major review of VCE Literature in 2021-2022 considered trends in enrolment data, audit results, and internal and external assessment data. The Study Review Panel included a range of experts, including experienced VCE Literature teachers and a VATE representative. The revised study design offers an interesting, rigorous and relevant study for VCE students. Enrolments in Unit 3 Literature did not decline, but rather increased in 2023 with 3,990 students enrolled compared to 3,490 students enrolled in 2022.

VCAA study scores are academic year specific, as well as cohort specific, ranks that are not directly comparable across studies. A study score of 30 in English is not equivalent to a study score of 30 in Literature. Based on VTAC scaling, the Literature cohort does appear to be a higher ability cohort than the larger, general ability English cohort. By way of example, in 2022 a study score of 30 in English and a study score of 30 in Literature were scaled by VTAC to 28 and 32 respectively. Public information on VTAC scaling can accessed via the VTAC website.

The VCAA will continue to monitor student enrolment and performance in VCE Literature and support teachers and schools to deliver VCE Literature. I value the strong relationship the VCAA has with the VATE Council and VATE members. If you or your members would like to

meet with key staff or have a discussion about future engagement opportunities, please contact Lauren Sayer, Director, Curriculum, on (03) 7033 1633 or by email: lauren.sayer@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylie White', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kylie White
Acting CEO VCAA