

23 October 2025

Professor Joanne O'Mara
President
Victorian Association for the Teaching of English
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Dear Professor O'Mara

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 October 2025 seeking clarification on the status of the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English (VATE) 'Meet the Assessors' program for 2026, and in particular, whether Chief Assessors can participate.

I wanted to firstly acknowledge the longstanding and invaluable role played by VATE in supporting teachers across the state, including the professional learning programs offered.

As you would be aware, the VCAA has an obligation to ensure that all Victorian students have fair and equitable access to the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), including information and insights related to external examinations.

By extension, the VCAA has an obligation to ensure that all VCE teachers have equal access to information regarding examinations, including any insights gained by Chief Assessors, Assistant Chief Assessors, or Assessors gained during their employment by the VCAA.

To this end, the VCAA will instigate a Meet the Assessors program, available to all schools and all sectors through our website.

We fully appreciate the role subject associations play in more directly speaking to their members and the desire to present more tailored offerings. To support this, the VCAA has reviewed its guidance to improve clarity for the associations as well as our staff. I acknowledge this clarity was lacking previously and am keen to assist VATE and, indeed, other teacher associations on this matter.

The **attached** advice will shortly be distributed to all Assessors.

In its preparation, based on feedback from CPTAV as well as your own and other associations, we have sought to balance the genuine interest educators have in the experience of people who have worked with the VCAA, with our obligations to ensure equity of access to information for all schools and to ensure individuals working or formerly working for the VCAA do not appear to represent the organisation without authorisation.

In the interests of balance, I can advise that, as long as they are not presented as "VCAA Assessors" and are not using this, or a similar, title to personally profit from their work with us, people who have held roles in the organisation are welcome to present. It is also required that they limit their comments to information in the public domain, sourced from the VCAA website.

Consideration should also be given to ensuring commentary is in line with the Study Design and does not draw on confidential information gained in the course of their role with the VCAA.

On that basis that these guidelines will be followed, we will not require people or subject associations to request permission or have their materials approved by us. We trust this will assist and of course will always be happy to answer any questions.

If you would like further information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Ms Lauren Sayer, Director of Examinations, on 0402 938 002 or by email: lauren.sayer@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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

Andrew Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Attachment incl. Guidance Note: Public comment and presentations by Individuals Employed under Ministerial Order 1451