

13 October 2026

Professor Joanne O'Mara
President
Victorian Association for the Teaching of English
joanne.omara@deakin.edu.au

Dear Professor O'Mara

Thank you for meeting with me to discuss your correspondence about the changes underway at the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), particularly in relation to curriculum leadership, expertise and accessibility.

I am writing to confirm and reiterate key items discussed at our meeting on 5 October 2026.

The *Organisational Review of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority* made several recommendations regarding the Authority's operating model and organisational structure to strengthen our service to the education community, of which English teachers are an invaluable part.

Changes underway at the VCAA are underpinned by a commitment to strengthening support for teachers across all discipline areas and ensuring that VCAA provides subject communities with resources, guidance and professional support to deliver high-quality teaching and learning.

Sustaining the role of the VCAA as a source of authoritative curriculum and assessment expertise has been an important consideration. Our view of the importance of subject English and related disciplinary expertise has not changed.

The revised organisational structure increases the number of school- and educator-facing curriculum specialists and organises them in collaborative teams across the Curriculum Division, rather than relying on singular roles. These teams will bring together senior curriculum advisors and curriculum managers with contemporary expertise and strong discipline knowledge. They will support one another and provide English teachers with more than one point of contact, improving the service we offer educators. Achieving this goal, within the resource constraints under which we are operating, has necessitated the creation of several cross-disciplinary groupings.

As such, I would be grateful if you would inform your members of the following:

- the VCAA continues to value English as a subject discipline.
- dedicated curriculum leadership in English has not been removed; and
- the number of educator-facing VCAA staff with discipline expertise will increase.

Regarding consultation, the organisational change process is governed by the provisions of the *Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024*. Out of respect for our staff and the intent of the relevant clause, the VCAA has limited its consultation to staff affected by the change process and, as is appropriate, has not engaged with stakeholders outside of the organisation.

The VCAA remains committed to building a strong relationship of mutual trust and cooperation with VATE while acknowledging that our organisations have different functions and operate independently. I hope that future engagement between our organisations will be constructive, respectful and collaborative in support of our shared objective of supporting the effective teaching and learning of English in Victoria.

If you would like further information, please contact Dr. Sean Butler by email to sean.butler@education.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Smith', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority