Community Languages Victoria
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Dear School Leaders,

We are pleased to share a development following CLV's ongoing advocacy and recent meetings with VCAA and VRQA.

Both regulators have indicated that there may be an opportunity for individual community language schools to apply for registration and permission to deliver VCE programs in 2027, subject to clarity from the incoming government regarding its election commitments and subsequent ministerial advice.

Following our meeting with VRQA yesterday we received further guidance from VRQA on the requirements and application process, which we are pleased to share with you.

1. Potential pathway for individual school applications

Subject to confirmation from the incoming government, community language schools wishing to deliver VCE will need to:

- Apply to **VCAA for permission to deliver VCE**
- Apply to **VRQA for registration as a non-school senior secondary or foundation secondary provider (non-school provider)**.

These are two separate application processes, each with its own standards and requirements.

For information regarding VCAA application requirements, schools can contact vcaa.permissions@education.vic.gov.au.

2. VRQA registration requirements

To obtain registration as a non-school provider, community language schools must demonstrate compliance with all the minimum standards for registration to provide an accredited senior secondary or foundation secondary course, including the Child Safe Standards.

VRQA has provided the following resources to assist schools in preparing their applications:

- Guidelines for non-school providers: Minimum Standards for Registration
- Child Safe Standards guidance for non-school providers
- Non-school senior secondary or foundation secondary provider application form

Schools should pay particular attention to the evidence requirements outlined in the Guidelines. Having the required policies and procedures in place is not sufficient on its own; schools must also provide evidence of their implementation.

3. VRQA application and assessment process

VRQA has outlined the following application and assessment process:

1. **Application preparation:** Schools prepare their application, complete the application form and collate all required evidence demonstrating compliance with the minimum standards
2. **Application submission:** Schools upload the completed application form and supporting evidence to a shared drive provided by VRQA
3. **Completeness check:** VRQA checks whether all required documentation has been submitted. Incomplete applications will not progress to assessment
4. **Initial assessment:** VRQA assesses the application and, where non-compliances are identified, provides the school with a rectification plan.
5. **Second submission:** Schools submit additional evidence addressing all identified non-compliances.
6. **Further assessment:** VRQA determines whether the school meets all minimum standards, including the Child Safe Standards.
7. **Site visit:** VRQA conducts a site visit to assess implementation, practice and compliance with requirements that need to be verified in person.

4. Application fees

VRQA has advised that the application fees are:

- $708 per community language school
- An additional $708 for each additional campus delivering VCE.

5. What should schools do now?

Although the decision regarding individual school applications is yet to be made, CLV strongly encourages schools interested in delivering VCE in 2027 to use this time productively and begin preparing their documentation.

We recommend that schools familiarise themselves with the information available on the VRQA and VCAA websites, review their existing documentation against the relevant standards, identify any gaps and begin collating the required evidence.

Given the limited timeframe before the commencement of the 2027 academic year, it is important that schools are ready to submit their applications promptly should this pathway become available.

6. VSL remains the safety net for students

In the meantime, the Victorian School of Languages (VSL) remains the safety net for students wishing to continue their VCE language studies in 2027, pending further advice from VRQA and VCAA.

Should individual community language schools subsequently obtain registration and permission to deliver VCE, CLV will continue working with the Department of Education and the regulators to facilitate arrangements for students wishing to transition back to their community language schools.

Moving forward

We would like to emphasise that the opportunity for individual school applications has not yet been formally confirmed, and much will depend on the outcome of the Victorian State Election, the incoming government's position and subsequent ministerial advice.

CLV will continue working constructively with VCAA, VRQA and the Department of Education to secure the best possible outcome for our schools, students and communities.

We thank you for your continued support, patience and determination throughout this challenging period.

We will keep you informed of any further developments as soon as information becomes available.

Kind regards,

Dr. Oksana King
CEO, Community Languages Victoria
and CLV committee