Community Languages Victoria
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Community language schools welcome bipartisan commitments to protect VCE pathways

Community Languages Victoria remains deeply disappointed by the decisions of VCAA and VRQA, which will prevent community language schools operating under CLV's registration from delivering VCE programs from 2027. We share the distress and profound concern expressed by affected schools, teachers, students and families, particularly those students who have spent years preparing to complete their VCE studies through their community language schools.

However, CLV welcomes the commitments reported following the meeting held on Sunday, 15 November, at the Greek Centre, organised by the Greek Community of Melbourne. The meeting demonstrated the strength of community determination to preserve VCE language education. Similar meetings were also held by other communities across Victoria over the weekend.

At the meeting, representatives of both Labor and the Liberal Opposition committed to supporting a pathway for community language schools to seek registration directly with VCAA and continue delivering VCE programs.

Labor's announced election commitments include a dedicated Department of Education service to assist schools, a $1 million fund towards registration application costs, and a rapid review involving community consultation. The Liberal Opposition also committed to a direct registration pathway and greater transparency regarding the findings concerning CLV.

These bipartisan commitments represent an important recognition of the concerns raised by community language schools, students and families, and the need to secure the future of VCE language education. They provide an opportunity to establish a genuine and sustainable pathway for community language schools to continue delivering VCE programs, subject to meeting the relevant regulatory requirements. CLV looks forward to working constructively with the Government, the Opposition and the relevant regulatory authorities to ensure these commitments translate into meaningful outcomes for schools and, most importantly, continuity of education for students.

As part of its non-partisan VCE election campaign, CLV is encouraging community language schools, teachers, parents, students and community members to engage directly with candidates in their local electorates ahead of the Victorian Election. CLV is calling on candidates across all political parties to support a sustainable future for VCE language

education, advocate for a direct registration pathway for community language schools, and commit to the practical resources and funding needed to ensure students can continue studying their languages within their own communities.

To find out more about the campaign and how you can support this important initiative, visit: https://communitylanguages.org.au/VCE_Election_Campaign_2026.php

CLV encourages everyone who values community language education to visit the campaign page, contact their local candidates, raise the concerns facing their schools and students, and seek clear commitments on the future of VCE language programs.

Community language schools now urgently need clear written guidance from VRQA and VCAA on eligibility, registration requirements, application processes, available support and realistic timeframes for 2027.

Our sector supports more than 42,000 students across over 200 schools teaching more than 50 languages.

Community language schools are proud of the VCE programs they have been delivering for years. For many young people, their community language school has been part of their lives since preschool. Completing VCE with trusted teachers and classmates represents the culmination of years of learning, commitment and family sacrifice. Losing this opportunity creates significant disruption and uncertainty for students and families and risks breaking the educational, cultural and community connections they have built over many years.

CLV recognises the importance of regulatory oversight and the need to maintain high standards of student safety, educational quality and governance. We remain committed to working constructively with regulators to address compliance requirements and support community language schools.

We recognise the important role VCAA and VRQA play in maintaining standards and protecting students, and value their longstanding collaboration with CLV.

CLV believes that regulatory oversight must be accompanied by a supportive, collaborative and proportionate approach. As a peak body operating with a relatively small team and limited resources, CLV has been required to support a wide range of accreditation, professional development, governance, funding and operational responsibilities across the sector. These responsibilities must be matched with appropriate expertise, resources, clear regulatory guidance and a well-defined allocation of responsibilities to ensure that community language schools receive the support they need to meet regulatory requirements.

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We appreciate the efforts made by the Department of Education to assist students. However, transferring students cannot replace or provide an equivalent educational experience to the relationships, cultural connections and learning environments that families have built with their community language schools over many years.

CLV urges the Victorian Government, the Department of Education, VRQA and VCAA to translate the commitments made on 15 November into an immediate and practical pathway for community language schools to continue delivering VCE. This must include clear registration requirements, dedicated assistance for schools, transparent assessment processes and realistic timeframes that allow students to continue their studies in 2027.

CLV remains committed to working constructively with regulators and being accountable to its member schools. We thank the Greek Community of Melbourne and all communities advocating for students, and acknowledge the collective efforts of families, teachers, volunteers and community leaders working to protect the future of community language education.

Our students deserve continuity, our hard-working teachers and volunteers deserve recognition, and our schools deserve a fair opportunity to meet regulatory requirements with meaningful support.

The future of community language education and the opportunities available to our students must remain a shared priority.

Dr Oksana King
Chief Executive Officer
Community Languages Victoria