

## VIT Video

### CONDUCT CASE STUDY: LUKE SHOPLIFTING

*Luke, a secondary school teacher, is arrested for shoplifting.*

*He is charged with theft. This is an indictable offence.*

*Luke appears at the Magistrates' Court of Victoria and is found guilty without conviction and is fined.*

*Because he's been found guilty of an indictable offence, he is obliged to disclose the court outcome to VIT within 30 days. Victoria Police also notifies VIT about the finding of guilt.*

*VIT is required by legislation to conduct an inquiry into Luke's criminal conduct in order to determine his fitness to teach.*

*According to legislation, fitness to teach means:*

**...whether the character, reputation and conduct of a person are such that the person should be allowed to teach in a school or in an early childhood service**

*In assessing his fitness to teach, VIT makes inquiries with Victoria Police and learns that Luke has a gambling addiction and an alcohol dependency which contributed to his criminal offending.*

*Luke's alcohol dependency and gambling addiction may indicate that he has an impairment that could affect his ability to teach. This might lead the VIT to use its power to request an independent health assessment.*

*So in addition to the VIT's investigation into Luke's criminal offending, the VIT is also considering whether he has an impairment.*

**This is an example of how a teacher's conduct in their personal life can potentially affect their professional life.**

**The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct principle 2.1 states that:**

**THE PERSONAL CONDUCT OF A TEACHER WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROFESSIONAL STANDING OF THAT TEACHER AND ON THE PROFESSION AS A WHOLE**

**Although there is no definitive boundary between the personal and professional conduct of a teacher, it is expected that teachers will**

- **be positive role models in education settings and in the community**
- **respect the rule of law and provide a positive example in the performance of civil obligations**

Remember this is a hypothetical matter, and VIT's advice would vary on a case-by-case basis.