

Fact sheet

Understanding the role of VIT

The Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) is an independent statutory authority for the teaching profession, whose primary function is to regulate members of the teaching profession to ensure quality teaching, and provide for the safety and wellbeing of children.

The VIT was established by the *Victorian Institute of Teaching Act* (2001) in December 2002 and undertakes its functions in accordance with the *Education and Training Reform Act* (2006) (the Act).



As an independent, self-funding authority, the VIT regulates the teaching profession in the public interest. Although we report to the Minister for Education, we are not a Victorian Government department or part of the Department of Education (DE).

What does the VIT do?

The VIT provides a wide range of statutory functions that are mandated by legislation, and these functions extend well beyond registering teachers to ensure only qualified and suitable persons are eligible to work in Victorian schools and early childhood services.

Although VIT reports to the Minister for Education, it is not part of the Department of Education (DE) and does not receive any direct government funding.

The VIT [approves and accredits initial teacher education programs](#) that prepare early career teachers for working in Victoria, and [supports beginner teachers](#) to enter the profession and [develop their practice](#) through professional standards.

The VIT also investigates instances of misconduct, incompetence or lack of fitness to teach. This work is critical and provides for the safety and wellbeing of children.

What VIT does	What VIT is not
Register teachers and early childhood teachers	An employer of teachers and early childhood teachers or employer authority
Establish and maintain standards of professional practice	An assessor and / or accreditor of early childhood settings
Investigate conduct, competence and fitness to teach of teachers and early childhood teachers	A member organisation
Approve initial teacher education programs (and accept programs for early childhood teachers approved or endorsed by the national authority)	A professional development provider
Develop Codes of Ethics and Conduct	An industrial organisation or advocate for teachers

How is the VIT funded?

The VIT's work is completed on a cost recovery basis, with VIT's operational costs funded through revenue from teacher registration fees.

Does VIT advocate for teachers?

The Act was amended by Parliament in 2011, to remove VIT's professional advocacy role, and we no longer have a legislative remit to advocate on behalf of teachers or the teaching profession.

However, the VIT recognises the high professional and ethical standards of registered teachers and early childhood teachers, as well as principals and early childhood educational leaders in Victoria. These professionals support children and young people and have a huge impact in shaping their lives.

As a regulator, VIT has an important responsibility to respond to growing community expectations while ensuring the teaching profession is respected for its crucial role in delivering excellence in education. The VIT is committed to educating teachers and the community about teaching quality by showcasing [best teaching practice](#).

Common misconceptions

Some common misconceptions about VIT's role are clarified in the table below.

Misconception	Correct information
The VIT is a government department	Although we report to the Minister for Education, VIT is not a Victorian Government department.
The VIT is funded by the government	The VIT is funded solely by teacher registration fees and receives no funding from the Victorian Government.
The VIT is part of the Department of Education (DE)	The VIT is not part of DE. The VIT registers and regulates members of the teaching profession and DE employs members of the teaching profession. Employment matters are not within the jurisdiction of VIT.
The VIT advocates on behalf of teachers and the teaching profession	The <i>Education and Training Reform Act 2006</i> (Vic) was amended in 2011 to remove VIT's professional advocacy role, and we no longer have a legislative remit to advocate on behalf of teachers or the teaching profession.
The VIT is a membership organisation	The VIT is not a member-based organisation, rather it is responsible for regulating the teaching profession. Teachers are legally required to gain registration, and only those assessed as qualified and suitable by VIT can undertake the duties of a teacher in a Victorian school / early childhood service.
Registered teachers don't get anything in return for paying registration fees	The VIT's wide range of statutory functions are completed on a cost recovery basis, with operational costs funded primarily through teacher registration fees. While many of these functions might not apply to every teacher (e.g. investigating misconduct), this important work provides for the safety and wellbeing of children and ensures the public standing of all teachers.



Resources

Find out [more information about the role of VIT](#) and explore [FAQs](#).