

Education and Training Reform Amendment Bill 2026

The Victorian Parliament has passed a package of amendments to the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. These changes are designed to strengthen child safety, support student wellbeing, improve transparency and ensure Victoria's education system remains inclusive, modern and trusted.

Improvements to the teacher registration framework

The Bill makes targeted changes to improve how the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) operates, particularly in responding to child safety risks.

Interim suspension decisions



- The VIT Council will be able to authorise suitably qualified VIT staff to make interim suspension decisions on behalf of the CEO.
- This ensures decisions can be made promptly in time-critical child safety situations.
- The CEO remains accountable, and safeguards apply to who can be authorised.

Reviews of interim suspensions



- Reviews will occur
 - within 30 days of the initial decision
 - then every 90 days (instead of every 30 days)
- The VIT must still consider any new information as soon as practicable and revoke suspensions where appropriate.

Information sharing and publication



- The VIT will be able to collect and share relevant information about applicants for registration, not just current or former teachers.
- The Register of Registered Teachers will be expanded to show
 - whether a teacher's registration is subject to a condition, limitation or restriction,
 - whether a teacher has received a caution or reprimand.

Governance of the VIT Council



- The eligibility requirements for the Chairperson of the VIT Council will be broadened.
- The Chair will no longer be required to be a registered teacher or principal. This allows a wider pool of candidates with strong governance and leadership experience.
- Registered teachers will continue to make up half of the Council's membership.

Restricting personal electronic devices in schools

The Bill expands existing mobile phone restrictions to cover a broader range of devices and all school sectors.

What's changing

- All government and non-government schools will be required to have a policy restricting student use of electronic personal devices during school hours.
- This includes mobile phones, wearable devices and personal audio devices.
- This will become a minimum standard for school registration.

Updates to the Victorian Student Register

The Bill includes targeted updates to the Victorian Student Register (VSR) to support national consistency and reduce administrative burden on schools.

What's changing

- The Bill allows additional information, including country of birth, to be recorded in the VSR.
- This enables Victoria to implement the national Schools Unique Student Identifier.



Recognition of First Nations people in education

For the first time, the Act formally recognises First Nations people and embeds self-determination in Victoria's education system.

What's changing

- A new Statement of Recognition is now included in the Act, acknowledging
 - the unique status of First Nations Victorians
 - historical and ongoing impacts of past policies
 - the role of education in improving outcomes
- New statutory principles will apply across early childhood, school and vocational education, recognising First Nations people as Victoria's first teachers and learners.
- Education settings will be required to be culturally safe, inclusive and free from racism.
- Departmental secretaries will have a legal obligation to work in partnership with First Nations communities to support self-determination.
- Aboriginal cultural understanding training must be made available to staff across education and training sectors.
- Teaching about First Nations histories, cultures and perspectives will be formally recognised in the Act as part of the curriculum.

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