victorian institute of teaching

Information Sharing Framework



Last updated 1 February 2026

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Purpose statement

At VIT, protecting children and young people is at the heart of everything we do. We ensure that only suitable and qualified teachers are registered to teach in Victoria. A key part of this responsibility is sharing information effectively and securely with co-regulators, agencies, employers, and law enforcement, while meeting legal requirements and protecting privacy.

Timely, accurate, and secure information sharing helps us

- prevent harm, especially to children and young people
- strengthen regulatory decisions and compliance
- enable transparency and accountability in professional regulation
- support whole-of-system coordination across Victorian, interstate and international co-regulators and relevant individuals and organisations.

Our decisions around information sharing always prioritise child safety and wellbeing, guided by principles of necessity, proportionality, transparency, and accountability. We may share or receive personal, sensitive, confidential, and health information where legislation permits. For details, see our Information Privacy Policy.

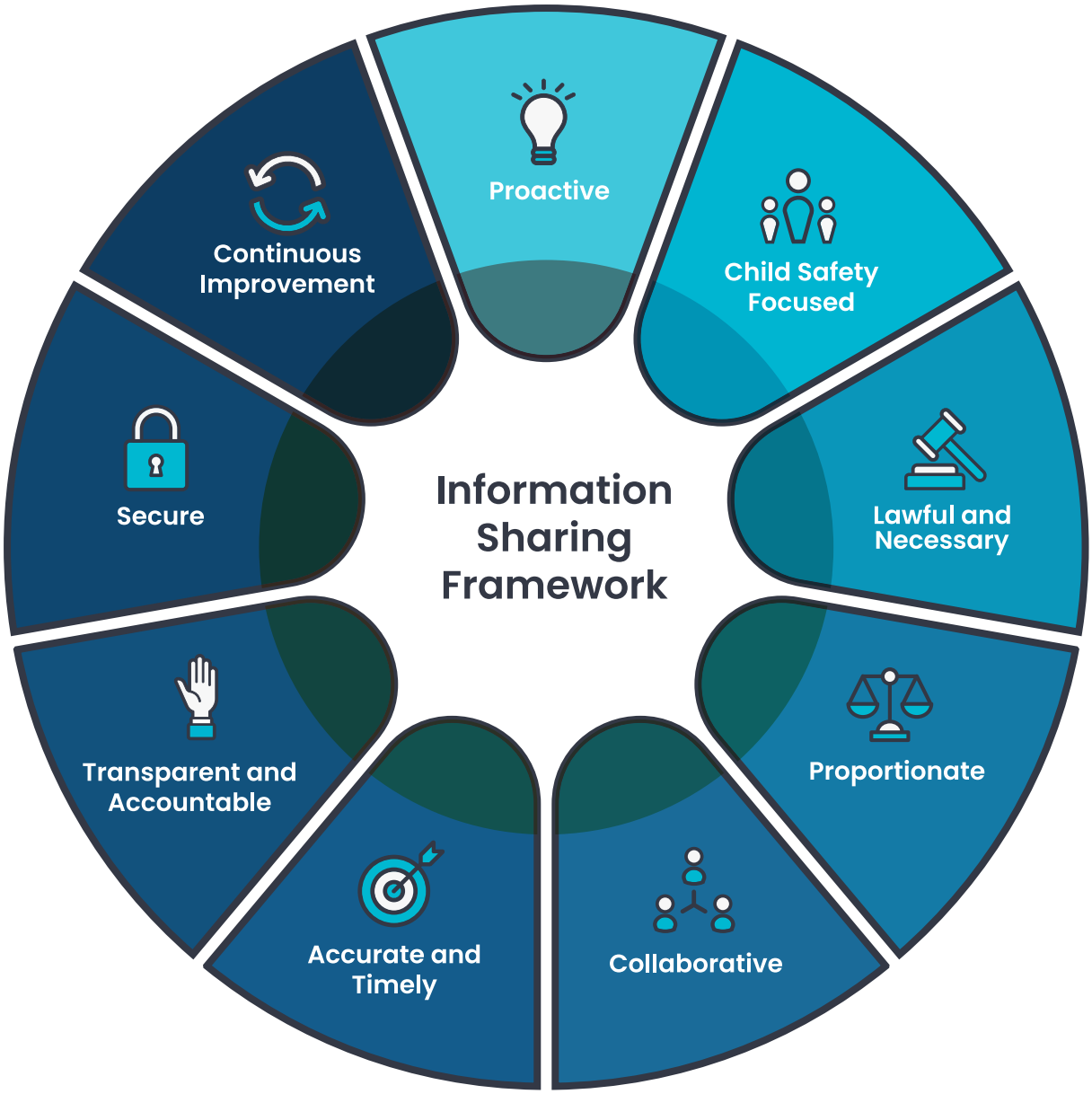
Our approach

Through this framework, we aim to move beyond reactive exchanges and embrace proactive, collaborative practices. By doing so, we

- improve oversight of the teaching profession
- enhance regulatory effectiveness
- contribute to a safer environment for children and the community.



The framework



Key principles



Proactive

We look for opportunities to share information that can reduce harm or strengthen oversight of the teaching profession. Where legislation allows, we start the exchange, even without a formal request, and do it promptly and effectively.



Child Safety Focused

We share information to protect children and enable timely action to prevent harm.



Lawful and Necessary

We share information when the law allows and when it's needed for our regulatory role. We are clear about the legal basis for our decisions and follow privacy and records management requirements.



Proportionate

We balance privacy with the need to protect children and serve the public interest.



Collaborative

We work with partners to set clear protocols and expectations for sharing information. This builds trust and ensures decisions are based on the most complete picture.



Accurate and timely

We share information that is accurate, complete, and up to date. We do this in a timely way, and at a level that matches the level of risk



Transparent and accountable

We document our decisions and have governance processes that support accountability. Our information sharing practices are clear and able to withstand scrutiny. Where appropriate, we report on our practices to maintain public confidence.



Secure

We protect personal information from misuse, loss, modification and unauthorised access or disclosure.



Continuous improvement

We use technology, data, and feedback to improve how we share information and respond to new risks.

Legislative framework

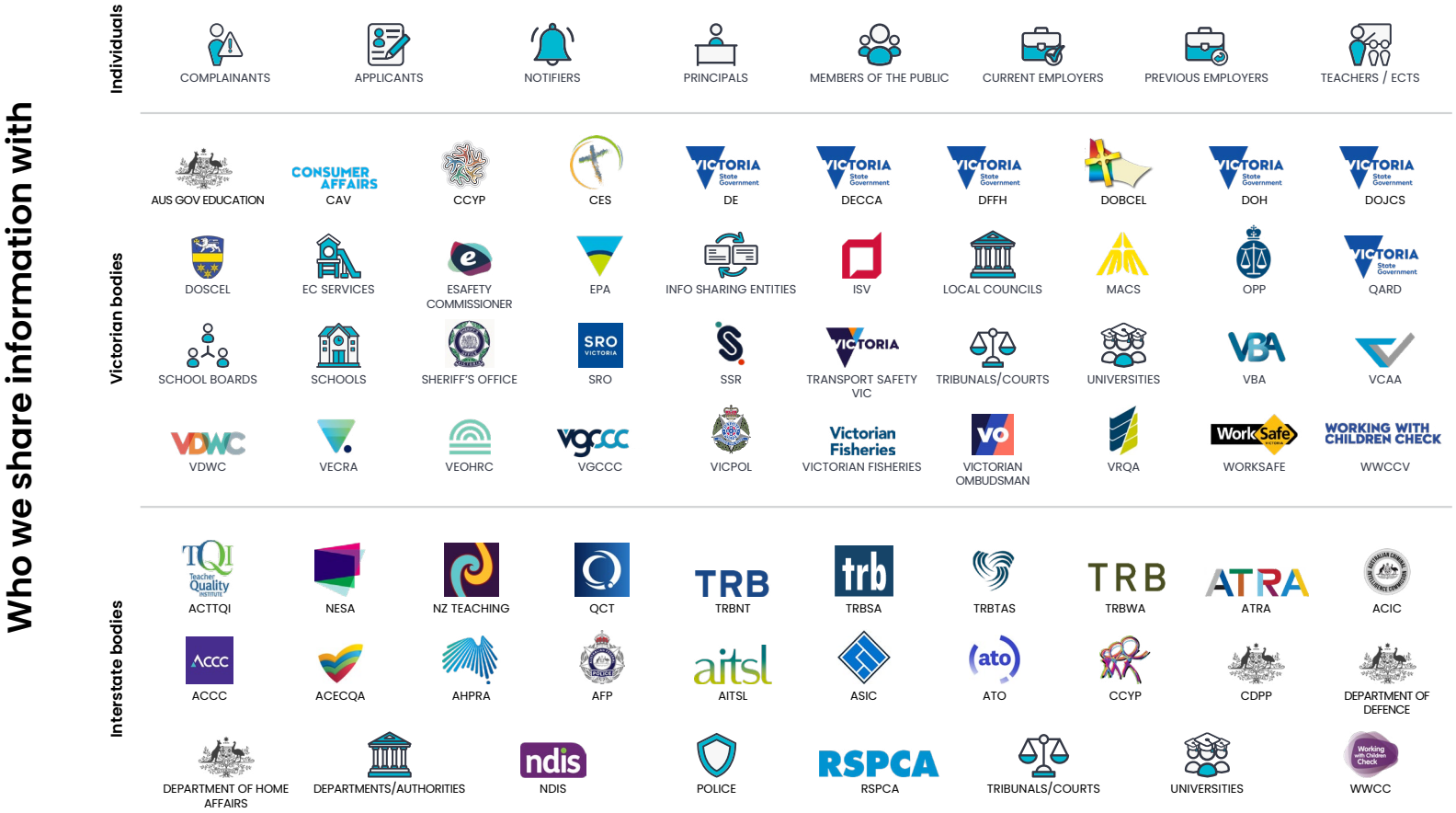
The VIT shares and receives information under a range of legislation, including but not limited to

- *Education and Training Reform Act*
- *Workers Screening Act*
- *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act*
- *Mutual Recognition Act*
- *Child Information Sharing Scheme*
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act*
- *Health Records Act*
- *Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme*
- *Commission for Children and Young People Act*
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act*
- *Social Services Regulation Act 2021*
- *Public Administration Act 2004*
- *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).*



Information sharing ecosystem

The VIT operates in a complex child safety information-sharing ecosystem. We engage with individuals and Victorian, interstate and international bodies to share and receive information. Depending on the frequency, we've built strong relationships to automate and streamline information sharing where possible.



Victorian Institute of Teaching
717 Bourke Street, Docklands VIC 3008
PO Box 531, Collins Street West VIC 8007

t. 1300 888 067
e. vit@vit.vic.edu.au
w. vit.vic.edu.au

The VIT respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories; the traditions; the culture and the hopes of all indigenous Australians.