



Victorian **Registration &
Qualifications** Authority

2016 ISANA Victoria/Tasmania PD Session

*Changes to the ESOS QA Framework
Schools & Senior Secondary*

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VRQA ESOS jurisdiction

VRQA is the Victorian State Designated Authority for:

- all Registered Schools on CRICOS in Victoria***
- providers of any Schools Sector courses (VCE, VCAL) by any provider to international students in Victoria***

VRQA regulates providers of schools courses to international students under both the Commonwealth ESOS Act, and the Victorian Education & Training Reform Act 2006 (ETRA)

The ETRA authorises the VRQA to issue VRQA Guidelines regarding provision of course to international students.



the CAAW letter is not just a piece of paper

- *the ‘Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation & Welfare’ (CAAW) letter is issued by the PEO of a CRICOS provider where an international student aged under 18 years will not be residing in Australia with a parent, legal guardian or DIBP approved relative*
- *a CAAW letter is evidence the PEO has approved the ‘accommodation, support and general welfare’ arrangements for the student*
- *these students are covered by a range of child protection standards*
- *the responsibility for approving the ‘accommodation, support and general welfare’ arrangements for the student is non-delegable*



CAAW students in context

PEOs of schools and education providers issuing CAAW letters collectively have responsibility for the 'accommodation, support & general welfare' arrangements of more than 3,500 children in Victoria without parents/relatives:

- a total equivalent to more than 4 Victorian secondary schools***
- more than the total number of Victorian children commencing 'out-of-home' care each year, including foster care***
- this responsibility continues until the student turns 18, leaves Australia, or has a new CAAW issued on transfer to new provider***



New Victorian Child Safe Standards

Last year the Victorian Government implemented new Child Safe Standards. The standards implement the Victorian Parliament's Betrayal of Trust Inquiry's recommendations.

The standards apply to all Registered Schools & providers of schools sector courses from 1 January 2016

From 1 January 2017 they will apply to all education providers in Victoria enrolling students under the age of 18 years



Victorian Child Safe Standards

To create and maintain a child safe organisation, organisations must have:

- 1. strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements*
- 2. a child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety*
- 3. a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children*
- 4. screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel*
- 5. processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse*
- 6. strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse*
- 7. strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children*



CSS Resources for education providers:

VRQA website (www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafes) has extensive information and resources for providers of schools sector courses.

The Victorian Department of Health & Human Services (www.dhhs.vic.gov.au) has extensive information about the child safe standards, and the requirements for RTOs, other education providers and youth organisations from 1 January 2017



2016 ESOS National Code reform

- *Commonwealth DET are liaising with stakeholders on the revision of the current ESOS National Code*
- *VRQA supports the strengthening of current Standard 5 measures to protect overseas students aged under 18*
- *VRQA has current VRQA Guidelines that add additional measures to protect overseas students, above the National Code (such a minimum age of 13 for homestay)*



Questions?