

October 6, 2021

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) Submission to VCAA Senior Secondary Certificate Reform

The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) wishes to bring to your attention a deficit in the provision of maritime education and training in Victorian secondary schools at a time of global skill shortages and increasing technological developments across the broad maritime industries sector. Following our concern we have established a special advisory group to investigate this issue.

So far we have had discussions with the Australian Maritime College, the Victorian Office of TAFE Coordination, the careers and vocational education sectors of the Victorian Department of Education and Training, several Victorian TAFE Colleges, Victorian TAFE Association and other agencies in Queensland and South Australia regarding the provision of maritime education and training in secondary schools and TAFE. We have also had discussions with the Royal Australian Navy and industry groups such as Maritime Industry Australia Limited (MIAL), Offshore and Specialist Ships Australia (OSSA) and Boating Industry Association Victoria (BIAV).

Common agreement from these discussions identified two key levels of curriculum development for maritime education provision in secondary schools. Secondary schools were the focus of attention because of the lack of awareness in youth about the career opportunities in the maritime fields and the need to generate an ongoing flow of youth into the industry.

The first level of need was a broad curriculum aimed at Years 9 and 10 which focussed on the dependence of economies on maritime trade and the servicing of that trade flow. This would involve fundamental issues of economics, basic maritime STEM applications as well as applied learning through supervised port and ship visits.

The second level of curriculum need was identified for Year 11 and 12 which could follow one of two streams. One would be an applied vocational stream drawing upon various units of competency from the maritime and technology packages of the Australian Industry Standards and approved qualifications of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority leading to a proposed Certificate II or III of Marine Operations with pathways into further education and training.

The other stream for Years 11 and 12 would be one with a mainstream STEM focus drawing upon industry and technology advances in areas such as construction, propulsion, electronics and logistics.

We are at an early stage in our investigation and as a collaborative network would welcome discussions with your office and review team, particularly how maritime curricula might best fit into the proposed new frameworks and how best to progress a more collaborative and industry responsive approach to the provision of maritime training.

MMHN would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further. We would welcome your advice as to how a meeting could be arranged.

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<https://www.mmhn.org.au/>