**Stephen Gniel:** Hi, I'm Steve Gniel, Chief Executive Officer, of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the VCAA. In Victoria, around 50,000 students undertake the Victorian Certificate of Education, the VCE, each year. This requires the support of not only VCAA staff, but also many sessional staff, to produce examinations for each of them more than 90 VCE and VCE VET studies, experienced and qualified VCE examination development panel members are required.

To assess student performance on the examinations and other external assessments, the VCAA also needs many qualified teachers for assessors and chief assessor's roles. And for the school-based assessment component of the VCE studies, the VCAA requires state reviewers who support the school-based assessment audit process.

This creates multiple opportunities for you to become involved in VCE external and school-based assessments. If you're a teacher, you can draw on your knowledge about VCE curriculum and assessment and develop it further through these roles. These videos provide information about what the roles entail and how you can find out more information and apply.

You'll hear the stories of people who have been involved in various examination settings and assessment roles. You'll hear how they contributed powerfully to fair, valid, and reliable assessments for all Victorian students. If you apply for and undertake, one of these roles, you'll work on assessment contributing to the opportunities of all Victorian students, as they move to post-secondary pathways. I strongly encourage you to apply for these roles.

**Announcer:** The Victorian and Curriculum and Assessment Authority is very keen to recruit Examination Development Panel Members for VCE and VCE VET. Examination development panel members play key roles in ensuring that the assessment of all students' learning is fair, valid, and reliable. Information about the different positions on examination development panels and the conditions of appointment can be found on the examination development panel application webpage.

**Rachael Whittle:** Every year the VCAA sets over 100 examination papers, and every one of those papers needs a panel to develop that paper. That's a lot of teachers and that's a lot of people who we want to be involved in this process to contribute to what is a really, really valuable outcome for our students.

The exam development chair manages the panel of people who are employed to write the VCE examinations. So, as the panel chair, you would coordinate those people, you would be involved in developing questions and also, working with the panel to refine the questions that they have written to eventually come up with, what is, essentially, the VCE examination.

Every year, you're writing an examination paper for a new group of students who haven't had the luxury of... "That wasn't done well last year," "That wasn't done well five years ago." If you understand the process that the examination is developed every single year in a contemporary manner to meet the needs of the students of the current cohort, then that allows you to relate that back to the fact that your students are then understanding that it's about them.

The flexibility of the hours of when you might develop your questions, well, that can be done in your own time. And then when panels meet, that again is a collaborative approach. So the expectation is not that you're leaving the school, that we will manage to have those meetings outside of that time, if needed, it's doable. You can have a full-time teaching load and be involved in exam development, as long as you're not teaching units three and four.

You don't necessarily have to have the gold standard of writing assessment tasks. What you need to have is an understanding and experience of teaching the study, and an interest and a passion to do this. To be involved in education, through a different pathway, to use your skills of a teacher of VCE study in a different way. And that's what the exam development process will provide for you.

**Announcer:** Teachers and academics who are interested in VCE and VCE VET examination development, and have appropriate experience and qualifications, are invited to apply.

**Rachael Whittle:** The VCAA provides every single VCE teacher with 20 something reports on data, but being involved as a panel member means that your understanding of how to interpret that data and how to use it to inform your teaching, going forward, that skillset is improved by being on the panel. Once you have this additional skill set, it might be that that's really suitable for a VCE coordinator's role or, you know, a curriculum coordinator's role within a school, because once again, you've developed a much greater understanding of how study design, so how curriculum is structured and how assessment comes out of that process.

**Announcer:** If you are interested in becoming an examination development panel member for a VCE study and would like further information about what's involved and how to apply, visit the VCAA's Sessional Staff Management System, SSMS.

**Rachael Whittle:** We want fresh ideas, and we want people who come with recent teaching experience, because one of the things is not being able to be a teacher, a current teacher of units three and four means that if our panel stagnate, then we have limited recent teaching experience. So, it's great to have recent teaching experience on the panel. And then, you know, things happen in schools and all of a sudden you're teaching three, four again, and you might step off the panel and back into the classroom and, you know, those people who have been involved in panels often are saying, "oh, you know, because I was able to do this, my school recognised what a wonderful professional learning opportunity it was. And “I've been given the opportunity to now, you know, lead professional learning in my school.” “I've been asked to do leading teacher roles because of all of the experience that I've had through my work with the VCAA."

I would encourage people to apply, to be involved in the exam development panel for their own personal growth. So, the understanding of the process, the development of their skill set in terms of writing assessment, and they are networking with the ability to work with a range of people, both internally within the VCAA and externally, because those networks are going to be formed through their involvement in the panel. This can then transfer to and impact on schools more broadly.

So the work that you do within the exam development panel, you're keeping in mind, every student in the state, as opposed to being in the classroom when you're thinking about your students. So the perspective that you bring back to your school is a broader understanding of the process of the impact of what you're doing for every student. And that can be really powerful to take back into a school and share with your colleagues and have them understand what the process is intended to do and how that process is carried through.

We need to have the input of teachers from all across the state. We need diverse opinions, we need somebody to challenge, we want somebody to play the devil's advocate and say, "That's not going to work for that cohort of students." And to bring that understanding to the panel can only strengthen the process.

**Announcer:** Applications can be lodged via the Sessional Staff Management System. For information, contact the VCE examinations unit or email examinations.vcaa@education.vic.gov.au.

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