Organisational structure

Chair, VCAA Board
Professor Adam Shoemaker
Adam Shoemaker was appointed VCAA Chair in December 2009 and commenced at Monash University as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) on 3 September 2007.

Previously, Adam was Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University (ANU) and Foundation Director of the ANU Research School of Humanities. He has a strong background in higher education management, including two years as Pro Vice-Chancellor at Queensland University of Technology and four years as Professor and Dean, Faculty of Arts at ANU.

Adam graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, with honours, from Queen's University at Kingston (Canada) and has a doctorate from the ANU. His sustained research interest is in Indigenous Australian history, literature, culture and politics, and he has been published extensively in these areas.

Adam is active in community engagement and has held a variety of national and international appointments, most notably as Chair of the Brisbane Writers Festival, President of the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand, and President of the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Chief Executive Officer
John Firth
John Firth has been CEO of the VCAA since August 2005. Previously he managed the Curriculum Branch at the VCAA and its predecessor, the Board of Studies, for 12 years. John was responsible for the development of the first P–10 curriculum framework for Victorian schools – the Curriculum and Standards Framework; its substantial revision in 1998 and its replacement by the VELS in 2004. He played a leading role in the full recognition of VCE VET and the successful development and implementation of the VCAL. John is a member of the Department Portfolio Board and has forged close relationships with each of the sector authorities in Victoria. In 2009, he was appointed as a member of ACARA.

General Manager, Assessment and Reporting
Dr David Philips
The General Manager, Assessment and Reporting Branch, is responsible for policies and procedures associated with assessment, certification, analysis and reporting of student achievement. The Branch also collects and processes students’ enrolment and assessment data and conducts measurement activities.

David has held management positions in educational knowledge and research, secondary examination implementation, policy and research, and assessment research and development project contracts.
Assistant General Manager, Assessment Operations

Joe Pellegrino

The responsibilities of the Assistant General Manager, Assessment Operations, include Centre Management, Assessment Operations, Assessment Services and Resources, P–10 Assessment and VCE examinations. The primary task of staff at the Assessment Centre is to develop and implement operational processes associated with the setting, security, assessment and processing of VCE written examinations, VCE Arts Performance and Languages other than English (LOTE) oral examinations; Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 NAPLAN tests; school-assessed coursework and visitation review; and appointment of all sessional assessment staff.

Joe has worked in the areas of P–10 assessment, assessment operations and project management.

General Manager, Curriculum

David Howes

The General Manager, Curriculum, is responsible for the operations of the Curriculum Branch, which includes leadership of project teams, VCE Review Committees, VELS Working Groups, the Vocational Education Reference Group and the Curriculum and Assessment committees of the VCAA Board. These committees and groups provide advice and recommendations to the VCAA on the development, implementation and monitoring of the VCE and VCAL, including VET programs, and the P–10 VELS.

David’s professional background includes acting executive roles in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and education advisory roles for state government.

General Manager, Planning, Strategy and Corporate Support

Lea Saddington

The General Manager, Planning, Strategy and Corporate Support, is responsible for managing the Corporate Services Branch, which is responsible for supporting VCAA business, including Board Governance, Strategic Policy and Planning, Corporate Governance, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Public Affairs and Legal Services.

Lea has worked at executive level in a number of statutory authorities and in the private sector.
Organisational structure

VCAA staff establishment
At June 2010, the VCAA had an establishment of 195.9 full-time equivalent positions. During the year, the VCAA also employed approximately 340 casual employees and just over 3700 sessional employees.

More detail is provided in the workforce statistics section (see Appendix 3).