

Youth in Transition:

Navigating transitions

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VALA

The Victorian Applied Learning Association, VALA, is the peak organisation for applied learning educators.

VALA offers :

- professional learning and development
- an e-newsletter
- a searchable resources webpage
- resources
- advocacy.



What is Applied Learning?

- a teaching and learning approach
- develops skills and knowledge in context
- Links to the world outside the classroom
- places equal importance on theory and practice.
- is applicable to all education levels and content areas.



Curriculum used in youth programs

- Certificates in General Education for Adults (CGEA)
- Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)



Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning - VCAL

VCAL is a hands-on option for students in Years 11 and 12.

Like the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), the VCAL is a recognised senior qualification.

The VCAL gives practical work-related experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work.

More information can be found on the VCAA website
<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vcal/aboutvcal.html>



VCAL structure – the levels

There are three levels of VCAL. Students complete the VCAL at the level that matches their needs and abilities.

Level	Focus
Foundation	a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills and preparatory learning (supported learning) .
Intermediate	develops independent learning, confidence and a high level of transferable skills .
Senior	develops a high level of interpersonal skills, independent action and achievement of tasks that require decision-making and leadership .



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VCAL structure – the strands

VCAL has been designed for youth - students must select subjects for the following four strands:

- Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- Work Related Skills
- Industry Specific Skills (VET)
- Personal Development Skills.

Work Related Skills and Personal Development Skills units provide a framework for learning contextualised to 'real life' – and for developing literacy and numeracy skills.



Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning -

Student enrolments	
2002 (VCAL trial)	546
2003	5137
2010	19,175

Enrolments are over 20,000 this year.

89% of students who completed an Intermediate or Senior certificate, went on to further education, training or work.



Where can you do the VCAL?



- Many secondary schools - government and Catholic and some private schools
- Most TAFE institutes
- Adult Community Education (ACE) centres
- Other RTOs.

Sharing successful stories



Youth programs – some case studies

Case Study 1: Adam, Fresh Program, Western Bulldogs

Case Study 2: Nic McLean and Elaine Cannard, teachers
from the YAMEC VCAL Introduction to Trade
Skills course, NMIT

Case Study 3: Jane Davey, PRACE