

home  
economics Victoria



## 21868VIC Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education



### Course Handbook

2010

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All information contained in this handbook is accurate at time of printing. However, Home Economics Victoria policies, fees and details are subject to change without notice. Course commencement is dependent on sufficient enrolments, accreditation and registration requirements.

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# 1. Introduction

Home Economics Victoria is a not-for-profit charitable institution in the form of a Public Company Limited by Guarantee. Since 1958 our organisation has supported educators in empowering young people to live sustainably and take responsibility for their own physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Our purpose is to promote skills for life to achieve optimal and sustainable wellbeing for individuals, families and communities. We believe this is achievable by engaging and educating young people in a variety of home economics contexts such as: food, nutrition and health; consumerism and resource management; human development and family studies. We achieve our purpose via our objectives which are to:

- Provide quality professional learning and accredited training
- Provide information and support through resources, publications, advocacy and consultancy
- Support research and development including the provision of awards and scholarships
- Work in partnership with relevant education bodies, government departments, organisations and industry.

Home Economics Victoria is overseen by a voluntary board and managed by a full-time Chief Executive Officer with a team of professional staff. The office is open from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday during school term.

Home Economics Victoria is a unique professional subject association as we are able to offer nationally recognised training in our capacity as a Registered Training Organisation. Our aim as a registered training organisation is to offer a solid program of accredited and non-accredited training programs that assist in building existing teacher capacity by providing teachers with professional development and nationally recognised industry endorsed training that is responsive to the needs of home economics teachers and teachers delivering VET Hospitality, the largest VET in schools subject. In parallel, student learning is enhanced as teacher delivery is relevant, current and based on best practice.

In 2008 Home Economics Victoria was accredited by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) to deliver its own Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education.

Home Economics Victoria's vocational postgraduate teacher training qualification in home economics teaching has been developed in response to the large number of unqualified home economics teachers presently working in Victoria and the overall shortfall of home economics teachers in Victoria. **The Vocational Graduate Diploma has been accredited by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and is endorsed by the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) to address the skill requirements for qualified teachers who would like to add home economics as a teaching method.**

Home Economics Victoria is also accredited to deliver SIT2027 Certificate II Hospitality, SIT20307 Certificate II in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations) and SIT30707 Certificate III in Hospitality.

In partnership with Service Skills Victoria we deliver five of the core units from the SIT07 Tourism, Hospitality and Events Training Package in a course called Introduction to Hospitality. Home Economics Victoria also delivers tailored accredited courses for teachers and kitchen assistants and provides accredited training programs in schools to secondary students.

## 2. Course description

# Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education

Developed by Home Economics Victoria, the Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education is a nationally recognised course that is designed to provide teachers with specialist knowledge and skills to develop and implement effective ways of teaching home economics. The Vocational Graduate Diploma provides home economics practical teaching skills that will enable a graduate to teach home economics education classes including health and human development and to effectively plan, teach and assess home economics lessons and units of work.

## 3. Entry requirements

To undertake the Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education participants must be **qualified teachers**. For the purposes of entry into the course, a qualified teacher is a person who:

1. Is registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) or who is eligible to be registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.
2. Has completed a three- or four-year teaching qualification or who has completed four years of tertiary education or equivalent which includes at least one year of education studies.

### Participants must

- provide certified evidence of teacher qualification and Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration upon enrolment
- be currently working in, or have access to, a secondary school teaching environment that conducts home economics classes to enable them to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in authentic teaching and assessment contexts
- have access to a fully qualified home economics teacher who agrees to act as a supervisor for the supervising teaching practice component of the course.

All fees are required to be paid prior to commencement of the course.

## 4. Course recognition

The Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) recognises the completion of the Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education as a fourth year of study. Those who complete the Vocational Graduate Diploma will be recognised by the VIT as meeting the specialist area guidelines for the teaching of home economics and health (including human development). This allows already qualified teachers to become qualified home economics and health teachers and/or upgrade their status from three-year trained teachers to four-year trained teachers.

## 5. Course prerequisite

Prior to undertaking VPAU066 **Develop skills in the science of nutrition**, participants must have successfully completed VPAU062 **Teach nutritional knowledge and skills**. This unit is offered as part of the Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education.

## 6. Career opportunities

Career opportunities in Victoria and nationally are excellent as there is an overall shortfall of home economics teachers in schools and a large number of unqualified home economics teachers teaching home economics.

## 7. Program duration

The Vocational Graduate Diploma consists of eight units. The program is designed to be delivered over a period of two years part-time (two units per semester for four semesters).

The time taken to complete the Vocational Graduate Diploma may vary, depending on the number of units a participant completes each semester. Participants who enrol in two units per semester are required to be complete in two years. Participants who enrol in one unit per semester are expected to complete the course in no more than four years.

Each course within the program has a designated number of nominal hours that reflect the amount of instruction involved. Each student's experience is different, and you may find you complete your program in less or more time than these hours indicate.

## 8. Course outline

The following table provides information regarding the units in the Vocational Graduate Diploma. The course fee includes the issuing of learning materials, specifically developed to support your learning experience. These materials are CD based and include a learner guide, set of readings (where appropriate) and assessment. Where a text is required this will need to be purchased at an additional cost.

Unit code and title	Unit description	Nominal hours	Prerequisite
VPAU060 Manage classes in practical home economics contexts	This unit deals with the skills and knowledge required to manage practical classes, resources and occupational health and safety in home economics contexts.	85	None
VPAU061 Teach food preparation and product development	This unit covers the skills and knowledge required to teach students how to organise and prepare a variety of foods and use a range of cookery methods to prepare menu items in an educational environment. Focus is also placed on the food product development process.	100	None
VPAU062 Teach nutritional knowledge and skills	This unit describes the skills and knowledge required for educators to provide nutritional information on all stages of the human lifespan. It also focuses on using appropriate dietary models and nutrition assessment data to determine the effects of food choices and dietary intake on health and wellbeing.	100	None
VPAU063 Develop and promote home economics practice	This unit describes the skills and knowledge necessary for educators to network and promote home economics practice in a learning environment. Focus is placed on the nature and diversity of home economics.	55	None
VPAU064 Promote health	This unit describes the outcomes required by educators to address the larger context of regional, national and global health issues and transfer this knowledge to promote health among individuals, groups and communities. Focus is placed on the different dimensions of health and factors that can affect health.	105	None
VPAU065 Promote human development	This unit describes the outcomes required by educators to promote the development of the human body across all stages of the lifespan. Focus is placed on the range of factors that can affect human development.	105	None
VPAU066 Develop skills in the science of nutrition	This unit describes the outcomes required by teachers of home economics to teach the science of nutrition and provide accurate nutrition information to assist in the prevention of nutrition related health conditions.	85	VPAU062 Teach nutritional knowledge and skills
VPAU067 Develop family and consumer resource knowledge	This unit describes the outcomes required to identify and understand how the needs of families can be met through the development of products and processes related to food, nutrition, relationships and living environments. Focus is placed on utilising effective management and decision making processes to make responsible and informed social and ethical decisions on consumer choices to meet family needs.	65	None

## 9. Textbook requirements

The following units require the textbooks listed below.

VPAU062 Teach nutritional knowledge and skills

VPAU060 Manage classes in practical home economics contexts

VPAU061 Teach food preparation and product development

Cameron, S & Russell, S 2006 **Cookery the Australian Way**, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, MacMillan Education Australia

Home Economics Victoria 2008 **Start Cooking**, MacMillan Education Australia

Both textbooks can be purchased from Home Economics Victoria. They can be ordered online or via a downloaded catalogue order form in the publications sections of our website [www.homeeconomics.com.au](http://www.homeeconomics.com.au)

## 10. Study mode

The aim of the course is to provide participants with the essential knowledge and skills to research specific teaching techniques, manage resources and deliver effective home economics teaching to students.

To facilitate these aims participants will be required to plan units of work, curriculum programs and complete a range of case studies and learning materials for working in a home economics-specific teaching environment.

Study modes will include:

- self-paced learning – learner guides will guide the learner through a sequential learning process with activities and workplace tasks relevant to the units. Participants will have access to trainers via email for assistance and support;
- classroom observations;
- group and individual learning activities/case studies;
- practical demonstrations;
- use of online technologies for networking and group discussions;
- presentations by experienced technical experts;
- on-the-job learning through supervised teaching practice.

## 11. Face-to-face training sessions

The course requires mandatory face-to-face training delivery days for the practical components where the participant can observe and learn under the direct guidance of a home economics teaching expert. These will be held in blocks during school holiday periods to accommodate the needs of working teachers. During the face-to-face training block, participants will review the underpinning knowledge covered in the self-paced course readings. They will also complete the practical applications in preparation for the workplace assessment. Cost of travel associated with the face-to-face training days is the participant's responsibility.

## 12. Program structure for 2010

Semester and units offered	Program structure
<b>Semester 2 2010</b>  VPAU062 Teach nutritional knowledge and skills  VPAU063 Develop and promote home economics practice  VPAU064 Promote health  VPAU065 Promote human development	<b>Closing date for enrolments:</b> Friday 18 June 2010 <b>Semester 2 start date:</b> Monday 12 July 2010  <b>Induction:</b> Monday 19 July 2010 for units: Teach nutritional knowledge and skills Develop and promote home economics practice  <b>Induction:</b> Tuesday 20 July 2010 for units: Promote health Promote human development  <b>Face-to-face training</b> (conducted during mid-semester break): Promote health – Thursday 30 September Promote human development – Friday 1 October 2010 No face-to-face training for: Develop and promote home economics practice and Teach nutritional knowledge and skills  <b>Supervised teaching practice and workplace assessment</b> Supervised teaching practice to be conducted between Monday 26 July (week 3) and Friday 3 September 2010 (week 8) This is a 6 week block. Workplace assessment to be conducted between Monday 9 August and Friday 27 August 2010 (week 5 to week 7 of term 3)

## 13. Supervised teaching practice

The home economics supervised teaching practicum of 22 days (or equivalent) is integrated within the units and is a **mandatory requirement** for the successful completion of the Vocational Graduate Diploma. The 22 days of supervised teaching practice will be allocated within the units as follows.

VPAU060 Manage classes in practical home economics contexts – 3 days (12 hours)

VPAU061 Teach food preparation and product development – 3 days (12 hours)

VPAU066 Develop skills in the science of nutrition – 3 days (12 hours)

VPAU067 Develop family and consumer resource knowledge – 2 days (8 hours)

VPAU063 Develop and promote home economics practice – 2 days (8 hours)

VPAU062 Teach nutritional knowledge and skills – 3 days (12 hours)

VPAU064 Promote health – 3 days (12 hours)

VPAU065 Promote human development – 3 days (12 hours)

For the dates of the supervised teaching practice block refer to the table above.

There will be overlap between the units as they will be integrated across the days of teaching practice.

The total number of hours for supervised teaching practice indicated above is based on the 2008 Teacher Agreement. In the agreement a face-to-face teaching week is equivalent to 20 hours for a secondary school teacher. This equates to 4 hours per day per week.

## 14. Types of classes for supervised teaching practice and assessment

For the supervised teaching practice component and workplace assessment it is essential that you include the following classes for each unit of study:

- VPAU060 Manage classes in practical home economics contexts – **must be:**  
Year's 7–12 practical home economics classes
- VPAU061 Teach food preparation and product development – **must be a combination of:**  
Year's 7–10 home economics practical and theory classes and VCE Food and Technology practical and theory classes
- VPAU063 Develop and promote home economics practice – **must be:**  
Year's 7–10 practical and theory home economics classes
- VPAU062 Teach nutritional knowledge and skills – **must be a combination of:**  
Year's 7–10 theory and practical home economics classes  
and/or  
Unit 1 or Unit 3 VCE Food and Technology practical and theory classes  
and/or  
Units 1, 2 or 3 VCE Health and Human Development classes
- VPAU064 Promote health – **must be a combination of:**  
Year's 7–10 health classes and Units 1–4 VCE Health and Human Development classes
- VPAU065 Promote human development – **must be:**  
Units 1–4 VCE Health and Human Development classes
- VPAU066 Develop skills in the science of nutrition – **must be a combination of:**  
Unit 1 VCE Food and Technology practical and theory classes  
and  
Units 1–4 VCE Health and Human Development classes
- VPAU067 Develop family and consumer resource knowledge – **must be a combination of:**  
Year's 7–10 health classes  
and Units 1 or 2 VCE Health and Human Development classes

### Location of supervised teaching practice

The supervised teaching practice must take place at a school offering home economics and home economics related classes as a subject. Home economics related classes refer to health including VCE Health and Human Development. If the school the participant is teaching at does not offer home economics, then arrangements must be made to undertake the supervised teaching practice at a school nearby that conducts home economics related classes.

Participants will be asked to arrange classes and dates for the supervised teaching practice at the beginning of the semester.

### Requirements of workplace supervisor/mentor

For the supervised teaching practice component each semester, participants **must undertake this under the direct supervision of an experienced and fully qualified home economics and health (including human development) teacher.**

Workplace supervisors must be a **registered and fully qualified home economics teacher** who agrees to act as supervisor and provide guidance to the participant. (A registered and fully qualified home economics teacher refers to a teacher holding a home economics teaching qualification that has covered the required home economics disciplines and methodology (and meets the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) Specialist Area Guidelines for home economics and health (including human development)). Upon submission of the supervising teacher details form, Home Economics Victoria reserves the right to determine the suitability of a supervising teacher's qualifications.

Supervisors are required to observe the participant teaching and complete a third party report during the supervised teaching practice period as a record of the teaching practice undertaken. Supervisors will also be required to complete a form outlining their contact details and home economics qualifications.

Provision has been made for supervisors to claim a nominal payment for supervising the teacher practice component. Supervisors will be provided with information and guidelines for the supervised teaching practice early in the semester.

## 15. Workplace assessment

Workplace assessment is a **mandatory** requirement for each unit of competency. Towards the end of the semester an assessor assigned by Home Economics Victoria will visit the school to assess the participant teaching to ensure the highly specialised skills in the teaching of home economics related subjects including health and human development can be practically demonstrated in a classroom teaching situation.

The assessor will observe the participant conducting a home economics related class and will complete an observation checklist to determine if the required skills can be competently demonstrated. The assessor will also conduct questioning to establish the participants underpinning knowledge.

At the commencement of the semester, participants will be asked to organise and nominate 2 date preferences for the assessor visit.

The dates for the workplace assessment block are provided on page 8.

## 16. Award requirements

To be eligible for the award **Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education**, course participants must successfully complete all eight (8) units of the course. **Participants must also successfully complete 22 days (or equivalent) of supervised teaching practice.**

Participants who exit the course without completing all the units for the Vocational Graduate Diploma award will be provided with a Statement of Attainment listing those units that were successfully completed.

Participants will receive a transcript of results at the end of each semester.

## 17. Academic policies and procedures

As a Registered Training Organisation, Home Economics Victoria oversees course development, training and assessment and monitors the continuous improvement of course programs. It provides advice to the board of Home Economics Victoria on policies and procedures regarding training courses and continues to ensure through the provision of its courses the development of high standards of teaching.

At Home Economics Victoria, course participants can expect:

- to receive course materials, assessment tasks and assessment criteria within published timeframes;
- that courses are consistently delivered;
- that consideration is given to the diverse range of backgrounds and learning needs of participants. All participants receive parity in terms of learning resource provision and guidance to support their learning;
- that trainers will provide consistent learning and teaching experiences, particularly in relation to the moderation of assessment;
- that both formative and summative kinds of assessment be regarded as central to the process of learning;
- that at commencement of the semester, participants are provided with a clear description of assessment requirements, standards of performance and assessment criteria;
- the conduct of participant assessment be transparent and fair, and follow approved assessment standards for all assessment activities which are provided to students;
- assessment activities to be reviewed on an annual basis;
- trainer and assessor feedback to be provided to participants on completed assessment activities which addresses how performance might be improved in the subject of study.

## 18. Enrolment

Enrolment in this program is based on your completion of the Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education enrolment form (available from Home Economics Victoria and via [www.homeeconomics.com.au](http://www.homeeconomics.com.au)) and your subsequent successful acceptance into the program and payment of the prescribed fees. It is important that you complete all sections of the enrolment form, including your current address and date of birth. Payment of the prescribed fees must be sent in with the completed enrolment form.

You must provide certified copies of your VIT registration and pre-service teacher education qualifications including academic transcript/s with your application.

Once your enrolment is received and processed, you will be allocated a position in the course. You will receive in writing confirmation of your enrolment and a receipt for the fees paid.

Once your enrolment is processed by Home Economics Victoria it is considered as a commitment to undertake the course and or units enrolled in. Should you wish to withdraw from the course, fees will be subject to the conditions stipulated in the refund policy (refer to the refund policy).

## 19. Course commencement

For enrolment closing dates and course commencement dates refer to page 8. Participants will receive learner guides in the mail prior to the course commencement date.

## 20. Course cost

**\$6600** (GST exempt)

Concession rates do not apply to this course.

**Individual units cost \$825** (GST exempt).

Payment can be made in instalments:

- on a per unit basis of \$825
- on a per semester basis of \$1650 (2 units)
- per year \$3300 (4 units)

## 21. Course induction

Course induction is generally held one week after the course commencement date. The induction session includes:

- introduction to Home Economics Victoria
- introduction to trainers
- semester units of study
- competency based assessment and learning
- course handbook
- policies and procedures relating to Home Economics Victoria as an RTO
- submission dates and course outline
- nominal hours
- unit requirements
- workplace assessment requirements
- supervised practice teaching requirements
- learner guide activities
- recognition of prior learning (RPL)
- complaints and appeals process
- evidence guide and assessment agreement

## 22. Submission of coursework

All course work undertaken will be assessed on a progressive basis during the semester. Participants must remain up to date with their submission of work to satisfy this formative requirement. Submission dates are provided for each unit of study upon course commencement.

Participants must submit work in electronic form. It is your responsibility to ensure a copy of the submitted work is kept for your own records.

All work must be clearly presented with the learner guide section and activity number clearly identified. Page numbering must be used and your name should appear in either the header or footer of the document. Hand-written work must be presented in a similar format. All assessments must be submitted with the task cover sheet.

Participants are expected to hand in completed assessment activities on time according to the published submission timelines for each unit. In the event of participants not submitting required assessment activities by the end of each semester this work will incur a late marking fee of \$25.00.

In the event of being awarded a 'not yet competent' result, the participants will have the opportunity to provide further evidence and resubmit. This applies for a one week period only, dated from the return of the assessment activity. Participants are also eligible to appeal an assessment result (refer to complaints and appeals policy).

## 23. Academic honesty

Participants must ensure the authenticity of their work. In all written work submitted for assessment you must acknowledge the sources of your material appropriately. As a general rule, whenever work is submitted that is not your own original work, it must be acknowledged. Quoted passages should be placed in quotation marks (or presented as an indented paragraph if longer than three lines) and their source referenced within the text (author, date and page number). A list of references should be provided at the end of the work (where appropriate) to acknowledge the resources used in the completion of the task.

Plagiarism is a serious issue and participants must ensure that all information is acknowledged appropriately.

## 24. Extension requests

Requests for extensions due to illness etc. are only to be negotiated with the trainer.

- Requests for extension must be submitted to trainer at least three (3) working days before the submission date;
- Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the trainer;
- No more than 1 extension per semester may be granted;
- The length of the extension is at the discretion of the trainer, however, extensions should not exceed 2 weeks;
- No extensions will be granted past the final semester submission date.

## 25. Deferral

Deferral is the postponement of study. In the event of unforeseen personal circumstances, an application for deferral must be made in writing to Home Economics Victoria for consideration. Course fees are non-refundable and deferral from the course does not warrant a refund (refer to course deferral policy).

## 26. Course withdrawal

An application for withdrawal from the course must be made in writing to Home Economics Victoria. If a participant requests to withdraw from the course on or after the commencement date of the course, there will be no refund of fees (refer to refund policy). Home Economics Victoria understands that unforeseen circumstances can arise which require the withdrawal from a course or unit by an enrolled participant. However, Home Economics Victoria incurs costs, staffing and logistic responsibilities once a course commences.

## 27. Change of enrolment

If a participant wishes to change their enrolment to another course, the fees paid will be transferable to the new course and a change of enrolment fee will be charged (refer to schedule of fees).

Change of enrolment is subject to availability and will not normally be considered after course commencement unless there is a compelling reason for the change. Change of enrolment must be applied for in writing and may occur if Home Economics Victoria and participant agree on the benefits of the change. Home Economics Victoria reserves the right to enrol participants into the appropriate course.

## 28. Methods of assessment

Assessment is the process of collecting evidence of your knowledge and skills in relation to the unit criteria.

Assessment methods will emphasise the demonstration of skills and will include:

- case studies;
- evidence sources from the workplace;
- research projects;
- demonstration of skills in a home economics-specific teaching environment, under supervision - third party report/s from supervising teacher;
- direct observation by Home Economics Victoria assessor visit to school;
- questioning – written and/or verbal.

Assessment will adopt a holistic approach where units of competency are grouped together where possible to reflect the home economics teaching environment.

A semester outline is provided to each participant and provides a timeline and due dates for completion of topics and activities. It is strongly recommended that participants submit work on or before the due date to avoid falling behind during the semester. Participants will have access to their trainer during the semester for support and guidance. All participants have the opportunity of resubmitting assessments if they have not met the competency standards required.

## 29. Assessment results

Results will only be provided to the course participant. All participants will receive regular updates on their progress and requests for results must be received in writing. Results will not be provided over the telephone or to other parties. Should you require a transcript of results or evidence of course completion prior to the issuing of formal certificates please contact the Home Economics Victoria office.

### 30. Issuing of transcript of results

Participants will be issued with a transcript of results for each semester of study, at the conclusion of that semester of study. The transcript of results will only be approved for issue when the Manager – Programs is satisfied the participant has met all the course requirements for that semester, and that all units of competency have been successfully completed and there are no other outstanding commitments (financial and/or assessment). Qualifications are issued in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of Home Economics Victoria. Qualification certificates will be withheld if fees are outstanding.

### 31. Course re-enrolment

Participants are required to re-enrol on a semester basis and all units of study are required to be successfully completed to be awarded the qualification of Vocational Graduate Diploma of Home Economics Education. Re-enrolment information will be available four weeks prior to end of each semester. Submission of current Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration details may be required if they have been renewed since last enrolment.

Participants who have been awarded a 'Not Yet Competent' will need to discuss their re-enrolment with the Manager – Programs before re-enrolment into new units can be made.

Participants who have completed the prescribed period of their enrolment (normally on a semester basis) but did not complete all assessment requirements in this period will be required to re-enrol in the course and/or units and pay the prescribed fee.

### 32. Access to training records

Participants' progress and records are carefully maintained and updated to ensure that an accurate and complete record of their academic program becomes a part of their permanent record. Participants may request access to their records by completing the *Application by student for access to personal records* form and providing proof of identification. Third party access cannot be approved unless the *Application for student records by third party* form is completed and signed by both the student concerned and third party. Forms can be obtained by contacting the Home Economics Victoria office.

### 33. Support

Information on participant support including language, literacy and numeracy, welfare and disability services is available from the Home Economics Victoria office. Additional support information will be provided to participants upon enrolment.

### 34. Recognition of prior learning

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is a process where a participant may be granted credit or partial credit towards a qualification in recognition of skills and knowledge gained through work experience, life experience and/or formal training.

Participants must enrol in the course/units and pay the enrolment fee for the units of competency/course as usual while the RPL process is undertaken. Participants must complete the RPL application and pay a non-refundable administration fee (refer to schedule of fees). To assist you with your application, it is strongly recommended that you discuss the completion of your RPL application with Home Economics Victoria prior to applying. If your application is successful the unit and or course fee relating to your enrolment will be recalculated excluding the component you have been granted RPL in. A refund will then be made where necessary. Refunds will not exceed more than 50 per cent of the course or unit fee for which RPL is granted.

There may be opportunities for unqualified home economics teachers who have been teaching home economics for the past five years to gain RPL for the supervised practice teaching component of the course. Please note that those participants seeking RPL for the supervised teaching practice component of the course or unit will not be eligible for a reduction in course/unit fees.

### 35. Participant feedback

As part of our ongoing review and monitoring to assist Home Economics Victoria to continue to improve the effectiveness of our training programs and RTO services, participants are requested to complete at least one evaluation form each year.

All responses are anonymous (if desired), and are used to review processes and implement change if necessary as well as continue to ensure Home Economics Victoria provides a high standard of training and assessment.

### 36. Additional information

All courses are subject to cancellation if minimum numbers are not reached. It is a participant's responsibility to ensure that Home Economics Victoria is advised of any change of address, telephone number, email address, or any other relevant details in writing prior to the move or change. It is also compulsory for a participant to retain a current email address and to advise Home Economics Victoria of any subsequent change as trainers use this as a communication tool.

### 37. Schedule of fees

Requests must be made in writing and include current address and contact details to the Manager – Programs at Home Economics Victoria. Fees are payable at the time of application.

All fees are GST inclusive.

Change of enrolment	\$110.00
Deferral	\$110.00
Application for recognition of prior learning	\$330.00
Late marking fee	\$25.00
Re-issue of a qualification	\$66.00
Re-issue of Statement of Attainment or Certificate	\$55.00
Re-issue of transcript of results	\$55.00

## Policies and procedures

### 38. Home Economics Victoria Code of Ethics

#### RATIONALE

The objective of the Home Economics Victoria Code of Ethics is to identify fundamental values and principles for members and staff.

#### POLICY STATEMENT / STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Ethics are values and principles that are used in making decisions. They help to decide whether actions are right or wrong. Ethical standards help to ensure consistent approaches and high standards. They indicate what is expected, and assist everyone in making decisions in difficult situations. Our Code of Ethics indicates to the community, the values, which our members hold.

#### PROCEDURES / GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Home Economics Victoria subscribes to the principles and aspirations of the:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and other international conventions derived from the declaration
- Other professional organisations whose mission, values and goals are closely aligned to those of Home Economics Victoria such as the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) and the Home Economics Institute of Australia Inc (HEIA)
- Other professional organisations whose mission, goals and values are compatible to those of Home Economics Victoria and who have been declared by resolution of the board to be considered as partner organisations.

#### Values and principles

- Act with integrity and honesty
- Cooperate fully in issues of professional conduct
- Act within the letter and spirit of the law and accept the standards of Home Economics Victoria
- Avoid and report corruption, fraud or maladministration
- Foster public awareness of the importance of educating about home economics, health and technology studies and their relevance to everyday life of families
- Support representation on peak bodies of relevance to the Association to promote home economics, health and technology studies
- Communicate and advocate for home economics, health and technology studies
- Co-operate and liaise with industry, media and education bodies within scope of home economics, health and technology studies
- Uphold and/or lobby opinions and views of Home Economics Victoria in a variety of forums
- Protect Home Economics Victoria principles and information
- Act with economy and efficiency
- Support Home Economics Victoria approved research into areas related to home economics, health and technology studies.

#### Be honest and fair

- Be honest
- Be impartial
- Avoid conflicts of interest.

#### Respect other people

- Respect individuals' values and culture
- Respect confidences and privacy
- Create and maintain supportive environments that develop cooperative working relationships encouraging each other as educators of home economics, health and technology studies within the scope of continuing quality education
- Recognise the need to update knowledge and skills
- Promote an ecological, social and economic environment, which supports health and wellbeing.

## 39. Occupational health and safety policy

This policy recognises that Home Economics Victoria is responsible for the health and safety of all staff and participants involved in training. In fulfilling this responsibility, the board and the Chief Executive Officer have a duty to provide and maintain a working and learning environment that is safe and without risks to health.

### The objectives of our policy are:

- To achieve an accident-free workplace;
- To make health and safety an integral part of every management and supervisory position;
- To ensure that health and safety are considered in all planning and work activities;
- To involve staff in the decision making processes through regular communication, consultation and training (where applicable);
- To provide a continuous program of education and learning to ensure that staff and participants work in the safest possible manner;
- To identify and control hazards in the workplace through hazard identification and risk analysis;
- To ensure all potential accident/incidents are controlled and prevented;
- To provide effective injury management and rehabilitation for all staff and participants.

To meet the objectives of this policy, management is committed to regular discussions with employees to ensure that health and safety issues are regularly reviewed. Health and safety is most effective when a joint approach is used to identify and solve problems.

### Participants

- have a duty to take care for their own health and safety and of others affected by their actions
- must comply with safety procedures and directions
- must not wilfully interfere with or misuse items or facilities provided in the interest of health and safety
- must inform the trainer/assessor of dangers and accidents occurring at the workplace.

This policy will be regularly reviewed in the light of changes to the workplace and changes in legislation.

Management seeks cooperation from all participants in realising our health and safety objectives and creating a safe learning environment.

## 40. Privacy policy

### RATIONALE

Home Economics Victoria is committed to protecting the privacy of its members and non-members by ensuring that the security of personal information is maintained within the organisation. Home Economics Victoria endorses the National Privacy Principles (set out in amendments to the Privacy Act 1988 which came into being on 21 December 2001) and has adopted them in its management of personal information.

The Privacy Act covers the collection, use, disclosure, quality and security of personal information and gives individuals the right to access and correct their information.

Under the Privacy Act, personal information means information or opinion, true or false, whether recorded in a material form or not, about an individual whose identity can be reasonably ascertained from that information or opinion.

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To ensure that all Home Economics Victoria members and non members have their privacy rights protected and to assist members and non-members in understanding:

- **what** personal information is collected by Home Economics Victoria, and how is it collected
- **how** and **why** members' and non-members' personal information is used and maintained by Home Economics Victoria
- **how** personal information is disclosed by Home Economics Victoria.

### IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

To ensure that all Home Economics Victoria members and non-members have access to the Home Economics Victoria privacy policy via a privacy statement, this includes information about how to access our privacy policy. The following privacy statement will be included on the membership application form, professional development enrolment forms, order forms, mailing carrier sheets, email messages and other forms as determined.

Home Economics Victoria is committed to protecting the privacy of our members and non-members and to ensuring that the security of personal information is maintained within the organisation. If you would like a copy of our privacy policy, please visit our website at [www.homeeconomics.com.au](http://www.homeeconomics.com.au) or contact the office on 03 9888 2240.

**What personal information is collected by Home Economics Victoria and how is it collected?**

- We receive information, which includes names (preferred and previous if applicable), addresses (including business, home, postal and email), telephone (including work, home and mobile) and facsimile numbers (including work and home), profile information including key teaching areas or areas of focus and areas of interest or involvement in Home Economics Victoria, collected from membership renewal or other application forms, professional development enrolment forms, order and booking forms and mailing carrier sheets.
- We receive information when you pay for membership, resources or Home Economics Victoria professional development activities or functions.
- We receive information when you contact us in person or via the telephone, send us a facsimile or email or attend our professional development activities or functions.
- We receive information from referrals and publicly available sources.
- We receive statistical information from browsers when you visit our website including server address, domain name, date and time of visit and pages visited.

## How and why members' and non-members' personal information is used and maintained by Home Economics Victoria

- Home Economics Victoria will collect personal information only by lawful and fair means and not in an unreasonably intrusive way, and we will take reasonable steps to ensure that personal information will be accurate, up-to-date and secure. The personal information collected by Home Economics Victoria is essential to our organisational activities because it is required for the processing of membership applications and renewals, ordering of resources and participation in Home Economics Victoria professional development activities and functions. We maintain and use this information in written and/or electronic form in order to provide you with information, products and services that will be of personal and/or professional use.
- Home Economics Victoria uses personal information for marketing and sales initiatives connected with resources, professional development activities and functions, considered by Home Economics Victoria to be of professional benefit to members and non-members. Home Economics Victoria also uses personal information to forward information considered to be of professional benefit by organisations such as the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the Department of Education and Training.
- If you tell us that you do not wish us to provide you with information about membership, products, services, or information considered by Home Economics Victoria to be of professional benefit, we will comply with your request.

## How we disclose personal information

- Home Economics Victoria will allow members and non-members the opportunity to access their own personal information if requested, and if two forms of personal identification are provided.
- As a general rule, Home Economics Victoria will not use or disclose personal information about an individual or organisation other than for its primary purpose of collection, unless:
  - The individual has consented to the use or disclosure; or
  - Home Economics Victoria has reasons to suspect an unlawful activity that has been, or may be engaged in, and may use or disclose this personal information as a necessary part of the investigation of the matter or in reporting its concerns to relevant persons or authority; or
  - The use or disclosure is required or authorised by or under law; or
  - Home Economics Victoria reasonably believes that the use of disclosure is necessary for a specified purpose by or on behalf of an enforcement body.

On occasion, Home Economics Victoria will disclose personal information:

- to organisations that perform services for Home Economics Victoria in connection with processing requests for products or services
- to corporate partners and joint venture partners to promote and/or market a service or product considered by Home Economics Victoria to be of professional benefit to members and non-members. Once an individual or organisation subscribes to a service offered by a corporate partner or joint member partner, that organisation takes responsibility for the management of any information provided as part of the member transaction.

## Security of information

- Home Economics Victoria will take reasonable steps to protect the personal information it holds from misuse and loss and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.
- Home Economics Victoria will take reasonable steps to destroy or permanently de-identify personal information if it is no longer needed.
- Home Economics Victoria has set out in this document, its policies of management of personal information and will make this document available to anyone who requests it.

## Anonymity

- Wherever it is lawful and practical, Home Economics Victoria will allow individuals the option of not identifying themselves when entering into transactions.

### Complaint handling

- Before making a complaint to the Federal Privacy Commissioner, individuals or organisations should attempt to resolve the matter with Home Economics Victoria, firstly by writing to Home Economics Victoria, explaining the situation and how the matter could be resolved.
- Give Home Economics Victoria an opportunity to rectify the situation: thirty days is a reasonable time frame in which they should respond to your initial enquiry.
- If members are not satisfied with the outcome they can complain to the Home Economics Victoria office or the Privacy Code Adjudicator.

### Contact details

Website: [www.privacy.gov.au](http://www.privacy.gov.au)

Enquiries: [privacy@privacy.gov.au](mailto:privacy@privacy.gov.au)

Hotline: 1300 363 992 (cost of a local call) Fax: 02 9284 9666 TTY: 1800 620 241

Mail: GPO Box 5218 SYDNEY NSW 2001

## 41. Refund policy

Home Economics Victoria maintains and promotes a fair and just refund policy.

- Cancellation of enrolment must be made in writing to the Training Officer at Home Economics Victoria;
- Application for a refund must be made in writing within 14 days of your cancellation of enrolment;
- An administration fee of 10 per cent applies for all cancellations;
- If a refund is requested 14 days before the course commences, a refund, less the administration fee will be given;
- If a refund is less than 14 days before the course commences, 50 per cent of the fee will be refunded, less the administration fee;
- Once the course has commenced no refund is available to participants who leave before finalising the course. Exceptional circumstances e.g. financial hardship, immediate family bereavement and/or serious illness will be considered on an individual basis at the discretion of Home Economics Victoria;
- If a participant wishes to change their enrolment to another course, the fees paid will be transferable to the new course and a change of enrolment fee will be charged (refer to change of enrolment policy);
- Home Economics Victoria will provide a full refund if:
  - the course is cancelled;
  - the course is rescheduled to a time unsuitable to the participant. Participants are entitled to transfer to the re-scheduled course should this be suitable;
  - the participant was not given a place in the course due to the maximum number of places being reached.

## 42. Course deferment policy

Deferral is the postponement of study. In the event of unforeseen personal circumstances, an application for deferment must be made in writing to Home Economics Victoria for consideration.

For participants seeking deferral from a course or unit of study it is strongly recommended that you contact the Manager – Programs to discuss. A course deferral form is available.

- A participant may defer for a part of one semester or one semester;
- The maximum period for deferral is two semesters or parts of two semesters;
- Study must recommence at the following semester intake;
- An application may be made to defer from the course in entirety, or units of study;
- Approval of deferment is at the discretion of Home Economics Victoria;
- Deferral will take effect from the date it is approved by Home Economics Victoria;  
Course fees are non-refundable, withdrawal or deferment does not warrant a refund.  
Exceptional circumstances e.g. financial hardship, immediate family bereavement and/or serious illness will be considered on an individual basis at the discretion of Home Economics Victoria;
- Home Economics Victoria will apply the course fees as payment for the recommencement of studies for up to twelve months from the original commencement of study;
- Any increase in course fees during the deferment period (including tuition and administration) may be applicable upon recommencement of the course;
- Deferral beyond the maximum period of two semesters or parts of two semesters will not be approved;
- Deferral to a particular unit will only be possible if that unit is offered after the period of deferment;

- If a participant does not resume the course or unit of study after the deferral period, a refund will not be applicable and all monies paid will become the absolute property of Home Economics Victoria.

Refer to schedule of fees for deferral application fee.

An application to extend the initial deferral period of a part of one semester or one semester to the maximum deferral period of two semesters or parts of two semesters must be submitted in writing using a new *Request for deferral* form no later than 28 days prior to the conclusion of the initial deferment period and pay the associated deferral fee.

### 43. Access and equity policy

Home Economics Victoria is committed to the provision of education services for people of all cultures, age, gender and interests. To meet this commitment Home Economics Victoria has included access and equity principles within its Code of Ethics. This sets out for all members and stakeholders the organisation's intentions to:

- support diversity and inclusive work and learning practices;
- promote respect amongst all people in the workplace;
- encourage fair and equitable treatment of people in the workplace;
- allow redress against unfair and unreasonable treatment.

Home Economics Victoria will comply and promote its responsibilities with all relevant laws and regulations on matters of:

- occupational health and safety;
- equal opportunity;
- discrimination and harassment;
- sexual harassment;
- bullying and occupational violence;
- complaints and appeals;
- disability;
- code of ethics;
- privacy of members.

Home Economics Victoria will provide additional support and welfare services or refer participants to external agencies where personal difficulties are impacting on their training progress.

Home Economics Victoria will develop and implement learning programs, assessment tools and delivery strategies to assist with the identification of participant needs and provide programs of learning that are relevant to diverse groups of participants.

### 44. Equal opportunity policy

Individuals associated with Home Economics Victoria can expect to be treated with respect without regard to gender, disability, religion, race, age, marital or family status or sexual preference or other attributes as determined by law.

Home Economics Victoria will provide a suitable learning environment which:

- is free from harassment and discrimination;
- is stimulating and challenging;
- will operate fair and efficient complaints, disciplinary and appeals procedures;
- will provide the opportunity for participants to give feedback on their training program;

- is physically accessible to all participants. As has been identified, Home Economics Victoria has limited access (stairs only) to the conference room. This may present a problem for some participants with special needs (e.g. participants in wheelchairs). The course would be moved to an alternate venue under in these circumstances.

Home Economics Victoria embraces its obligations to provide equal opportunities for its members, staff, participants and the community.

## 45. Harassment policy

Harassment is unlawful behaviour and this policy applies to all people in the Home Economics Victoria community including employees, casual staff, contractors, participants, board members, directors, participants and other persons acting as agents or contractors of Home Economics Victoria.

Home Economics Victoria regards any type of harassment as an unacceptable form of behaviour that will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Should there be a complaint of harassment, formal procedures as detailed under 'procedures' must be followed to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Harassment can be physical, verbal or visual and may include statements or transmissions by phone, fax, video conference, internet and email, and will vary in the degree and extent to which it causes affront and distress. Even if the behaviour is not intended to be offensive, it may still be unlawful.

## 46. Occupational violence policy

Home Economics Victoria is committed to providing a positive working and learning environment free from intimidation, ridicule and bullying. Home Economics Victoria believes that all staff and participants should be able to work and learn in an environment free of threatening behaviours. Any reports of bullying and or intimidating/violent behaviour will be treated seriously and investigated promptly, confidentially and impartially. Home Economics Victoria encourages all staff and participants to report bullying and or violence.

Workplace bullying, occupational violence and unreasonable behaviour directed towards an employee, a participant or a group of participants creates a risk to health and safety. Home Economics Victoria does not condone unreasonable behaviour and will act to address any issues as soon as they are identified. Disciplinary action will be taken against anyone found to have bullied or threatened any workplace person including staff and participants. Discipline may involve a warning, reprimand, counselling, demotion or dismissal, depending on the circumstances. Where bullying involves physical violence or the threat of physical violence the matter will be referred to the police.

### Definitions

'Unreasonable behaviour' means behaviour that a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would expect to victimise, humiliate, undermine or threaten.

'Behaviour' includes actions of individuals or a group, and may involve using a system of work and or learning environment as a means of victimising, humiliating, undermining or threatening.

'Risk to health and safety' includes risk to the mental or physical health of the person.

The following types of behaviour, where repeated or occurring as part of a pattern of behaviour, could be considered bullying: verbal abuse, excluding or isolating people, psychological harassment, intimidation, assigning meaningless tasks unrelated to the job, giving impossible assignments/tasks, deliberately changed work rosters to inconvenience particular employees, deliberately withholding information vital for effective work performance.

This list is not exhaustive. Other types of behaviour may also constitute bullying.

A participant who experiences harassment, bullying or any other threatening behaviour should inform their trainer/immediate supervisor and together attempt to resolve the problem. If this does not work, or the trainer/immediate supervisor is part of the problem, approach the Chief Executive Officer or the nominated complaints/appeals officer from the board.

## 47. Complaints and appeals policy

### Introduction

Home Economics Victoria acknowledges that staff, members and course participants have a right to raise concerns and have them addressed promptly and appropriately. Complaints are handled objectively and with sensitivity. The most desirable outcome in cases of complaints is:

- the determination about whether there has been any unsatisfactory/inappropriate practice or action, as early as possible and in the fairest and most objective manner possible;
- the implementation of any necessary changes designed to bring about better educational, or administrative outcomes, as appropriate;
- the achievement of reconciliation between the parties;
- the establishment of a renewed confidence in the relationship.

This procedure identifies the means of handling, in a fair, equitable and effective manner, the actions that are to be taken when any staff member receives a complaint, either internally or externally to Home Economics Victoria. The procedure applies to all staff, members and course participants of Home Economics Victoria in reference to any communication with the following exceptions:

1. Health and safety matters shall be dealt with in accordance with Home Economics Victoria's Occupational Health and Safety policy and procedures;
2. Discrimination, bullying and any issue relating to equal opportunity and managing diverse issues such as sexual harassment shall be dealt with in accordance with Home Economics Victoria's Equal opportunity policy, Sexual harassment policy, Bullying/Occupational violence policy and Access and equity policy
3. Situations relating to matters of staff misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with Home Economics Victoria's Policy and procedures for staff warning and discipline and Code of Ethics;
4. Matters relating to course participant misconduct shall be dealt with in accordance with Home Economics Victoria's Code of ethics.

### 1. Policy

Complaints and appeals will be managed and settled, in a fair, equitable and effective manner using the procedures listed below.

1.1 Home Economics Victoria will ensure that:

- Each complaint or appeal and its outcome is recorded in writing;
- Each appeal is heard by an independent person or panel; and
- Each appellant:
  - a) has an opportunity to formally present his or her case; and
  - b) is given a written statement of the appeal outcomes, including reasons for the decision.
- It acts upon the subject of any complaint found to be substantiated.

It is the policy of Home Economics Victoria that receipt of complaints, whether received from within or externally, will be handled promptly and effectively and the complainant will receive a response within a reasonable timeline. Policy principles are listed below:

- 1.2 All staff, members and course participants are entitled to fair and consistent treatment, and prompt consideration and resolution of complaints;
- 1.3 No complainant shall be discriminated against for lodging a complaint;
- 1.4 All complaint processes shall be enacted to ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times;
- 1.5 All complaint processes shall be resolved as close to their source as practicable with the emphasis on conciliation;
- 1.6 The complainant has the right to withdraw the complaint at any time;
- 1.7 A staff member who is the complainant may request the assistance of another person nominated by them, or another staff member, at any time during the complaints process;

1.8 A course participant may request the assistance of a support person as nominated by them at any time during the complaints process. This could be a Home Economics Victoria staff member or other participant of the course;

1.9 Consistent with 1.7 and 1.8 above, any such assistance/representation will exclude the legal profession and family members;

1.10 All parties are treated equally and fairly, and in accordance with the principles of natural justice;

1.11 Written records of the outcomes, agreements and actions are to be kept at all stages of the complaints process;

1.12 During the complaints process, the Chief Executive Officer has a duty of care to identify and assess any foreseeable risks to the individuals involved and/or Home Economics Victoria and to take the necessary steps to communicate or to mitigate the risk(s).

## 2. Procedure

**Note:** It is essential that accurate records be maintained throughout each stage of the process.

2.1 Complaints may be received internally from staff or participants or externally from stakeholders or members of the public by a variety of means, verbally, in writing or by mail. The staff member receiving the complaint will:

- a) respond directly to the complainant, within five (5) working days, indicating that the issue will be investigated;
- b) forward the communication to the relevant staff member to investigate the issue, prepare response and organise a meeting to discuss the complaint;
- c) The relevant parties and complainant must meet and discuss the matter, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 20 working days after the complaint has been received. If the complaint has been made directly to the Chief Executive Officer or her representative, the Chief Executive Officer must exercise judgement and determine whether to attempt an informal resolution or immediately commence the formal resolution procedure.
- d) Following the meeting, the relevant staff member will provide a written response to the complainant detailing any actions that have been, or will be, taken to resolve the issue.
- e) In the event that it is determined that there are no grounds for the complaint, the complainant will be advised in writing why no further action is to be taken. If the complainant is not satisfied with this decision, he/she may request an independent review as detailed below. This request must be in writing and must include: details of the complaint, actions that have been taken to attempt to resolve the matter, reasons why the complainant is not satisfied with the determination.

2.2 If the complaint has been resolved at this stage all records are to be retained, including details of the actions taken to resolve the issue completed using the Complaints and Appeal Record of Correspondence, and filed/archived according to Home Economics Victoria's Administration and Records Management Policy and Procedure.

2.3 Relevant staff member/s to identify any possible improvement/s or actions that may be taken as a result and advise relevant staff.

2.4 Home Economics Victoria will promptly rectify the subject of any complaint, which is found to be substantiated.

## 3. Formal procedures

### Independent review

3.1 Where the complainant wishes to proceed with a formal complaint when the issue has not been resolved, he/she will address the complaint in writing requesting an independent review. The request in writing must also include: details of the complaint, actions that have been taken to attempt to resolve the matter, reasons why the complainant is not satisfied with the determination. The written request will be sent to the Chief Executive Officer.

3.2 The Chief Executive Officer and/or their nominee will organise an independent review of the issue and seek to resolve the matter. The nature of the independent review will depend on the circumstances of the issue/s to

be reviewed. The independent review may be conducted by an independent external person such as a representative from Service Skills Victoria, or a Training Recognition Consultant.

3.3 The Chief Executive Officer and/or their nominee shall ensure that the independent review is completed within 20 working days of receipt of formal complaint.

3.4 The Chief Executive Officer and/or their nominee shall determine their own procedures for the purpose of considering the independent review based on the principles of fairness, equity and natural justice.

3.5 The outcome of the independent review will be final, subject only to an appeal as detailed below.

## **Appeals**

3.6 Where the complainant wishes to appeal the outcome of a decision made by an independent review, he/she will address this in writing requesting an appeal. The request in writing must also include: details of why the complainant is not satisfied with the findings of the independent review. The written request will be sent to the Chief Executive Officer.

3.7 The Chief Executive Officer and/or their nominee will organise an Appeals Committee to seek to resolve the matter.

3.8 The Appeals Committee shall consist of three nominees of the Chief Executive Officer. The nominees are to include a:

### **Staff member:**

Home Economics Victoria President to act as Chair;

Representation from a Director of the board;

One other staff member, as nominated by the Chief Executive Officer.

### **Participant:**

One Director of the board, to act as Chair;

One other staff member, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer;

One participant representative, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer;

And/or

One independent person external to Home Economics Victoria.

3.9 The Appeals Committee shall not consist of any person who has been directly involved in the complaint.

3.10 The Appeals Committee shall be serviced by a person who is nominated by the Chief Executive Officer. This person will keep a record of all proceedings, outcomes and documentation, including maintaining the Complaints/Appeal Record of Correspondence.

3.11 The Appeals Committee shall complete its review within 20 working days of receipt of the appeal by the Chief Executive Officer.

3.12 The appellant may be supported by a person of his/her choice during the proceedings of the Appeals Committee, provided that no representation for fee or reward by a legally qualified person or family member shall be allowed. A staff appellant may draw support from any other staff member. A Participant appellant may draw support from another participant, a member of staff or external person.

3.13 The Appeals Committee shall determine its own procedures for the purpose of considering the appeal based on the principles of fairness, equity and natural justice.

3.14 The Appeals Committee shall, prior to beginning its deliberations, receive copies of all documentation relating to the complaint.

3.15 The Appeals Committee shall ensure that:

- a) all meetings/hearings are conducted at times and venues which allow the opportunity for all persons entitled to be present to attend;
- b) all persons, whom the parties regard as relevant and in the opinion of the Committee can provide relevant information are heard and their submissions considered by the Committee;
- c) the complainant is provided with opportunities to make written submissions;
- d) the complainant is provided with opportunities to call witnesses and to be present while other evidence is being presented;
- e) all discussions are to be treated with the strictest of confidence;
- f) all parties have access to relevant information at least three (3) working days in advance of any meeting/hearing.

3.16 Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be by consensus and are final. **There is no avenue for further appeal within any person within Home Economics Victoria.**

3.17 Within five (5) working days of the conclusion of the Committee's deliberations, the Chair of the Appeals Committee shall, on behalf of the Committee, prepare a written report for the Chief Executive Officer and a letter to the complainant.

3.18 The report shall include:

- details of any decision and reasons for the decision of the Appeal Committee;
- details of any settlement reached between the parties and the reasons, if any, for the settlement;
- recommendations concerning any process improvement that is required by Home Economics Victoria as a result of issues arising from the complaint.

3.19 The letter shall include:

- details of any decision and reasons for the decision of the Appeal Committee;
- details of any settlement reached between the parties and the reasons, if any, for the settlement;
- details of closure of the issue.

### **Appeals on procedural grounds**

3.20 A staff member or participant who believes there have been procedural irregularities in dealing with the complaint may exercise his/her right by formally writing to the Chief Executive Officer, and request an appeal hearing. In the letter of appeal the staff member must clearly indicate why he/she believes that there has been procedural irregularity. **There are no other grounds for appeal.**

3.21 If the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied that there is no case of procedural irregularity he/she may reject the appeal and advise all parties in writing as to the reasons for this decision. If there is any doubt, or if there appears to be a case to be heard he/she shall convene an Appeals Committee.

3.22 External complainants who are not satisfied with the resolution of their complaint may take the matter through the relevant external agencies that are available to them.

## 48. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) policy

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) and credit transfer (CT) is the process of equating an individual's prior learning and past/present experience to the learning outcomes of the units of competence offered by a training organisation. This recognition is available to all individuals enrolling in any nationally recognised course.

RPL and CT acknowledge the full range of an individual's skills, knowledge and experience, irrespective of how it has been acquired. This includes competencies gained through formal study, work experience, employment and other 'life' experiences.

### Mutual recognition

Home Economics Victoria will recognise AQF qualifications and statements of attainment issued by other RTOs in line with the requirements of the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) for mutual recognition.

### Recognition guidelines

Home Economics Victoria will recognise competencies gained through work experience, employment and other 'life' experiences provided evidence submitted by the applicant to demonstrate competency complies with the rules of evidence.

#### Gathered evidence should be valid.

Evidence is valid if it meets the performance criteria and elements, underpinning knowledge and skills and critical aspects of assessment specified in the unit of competency applied for.

#### Gathered evidence should be current

Evidence is considered current if it relates to activities recently undertaken.

#### Gathered evidence should be authentic

Evidence will be considered authentic if it is the applicant's own work and verified copies of evidence of past employment/work activities.

There must be a sufficient quantity of evidence to demonstrate competence.

### Procedure for applicant to apply for RPL

Applications for RPL/CT should be lodged with the Training Officer and contain all relevant documents (evidence). Examples of evidence to support RPL/CT application might include:

- samples of work completed
- third party reports
- testimonials from colleagues
- documentation of observation of performance under real (on-the-job) or simulated work conditions.
- interview questions and answers
- competency record books (need to be current)
- written accounts of discussions with workplaces
- work reports from supervisor
- references and testimonials
- documentation of current achievements
- completed projects.

A verification of the application will be undertaken. (Further information/documentation may be requested to be supplied.)

An application may be suspended pending the provision of further evidence.

Applicant is then notified of the decision.

Where applicable, credit will be given and recorded for identical units of competence completed elsewhere. Exemptions will be granted and recorded for achievement of the equivalence of a unit of competency.

Applicants may appeal a decision. Appeals should be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Manager – Programs (refer to Complaints and appeals policy)

Appeals will be heard by an independent person or panel.