



# Enrolment Policy



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact VCD on 9510 1706 or [Victorian.ds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Victorian.ds@education.vic.gov.au)

## BACKGROUND

Victorian College for the Deaf provides educational programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing from Foundation to Year 12. We teach the Victorian Curriculum. The two languages of instruction are English (spoken and written), and Auslan.

By law in Victoria all children from the age of 6 up until they turn 17 years must be enrolled at a registered school or registered for home schooling unless they have a reasonable excuse. School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with a comprehensive educational program and access to support networks. It also helps to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and active participation in their local community.

Victorian College for the Deaf caters for the specific educational needs of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Under State and Federal discrimination law, specialist schools are permitted to set specific enrolment criteria and to not enrol students who do not meet these criteria.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to specify the enrolment criteria for students seeking enrolment at Victorian College for the Deaf and the evidence required to support applications for enrolment.

It is intended to provide clarity for the community on the enrolment criteria and ensure a smooth and supported transition for enrolling students.

## SCOPE

Enrolment at Victorian College for the Deaf is based on a student's educational needs due to their deafness. Subject to capacity, student intake may be at any stage of the year, providing the student is of school age and satisfies the eligibility criteria. All applications for enrolment at Victorian College for the Deaf require regional approval.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following enrolment criteria have been specified and approved by the Regional Director, South West Victoria Region (as the Minister's delegate) under section 2.2.16(b) of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic).

The enrolment criteria have been determined based on the identified education needs of

students in the community. A student's enrolment will be reviewed periodically in line with their needs.

Students seeking to enrol must have:

- A. A bilateral sensori-neural hearing loss that is moderate/severe/profound and
- B. The student requires intervention or assistance to communicate.

Applications from students who do not meet the above criteria will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the region, in consultation with the Principal, in consideration of the student's education and support needs. The Regional Director, South West Victoria Region must approve enrolments for students who do not meet the eligibility criteria.

## PRIORITY ORDER OF PLACEMENT

In circumstances where the school may not have sufficient accommodation to be able to accept all applications from eligible students, the school will manage enrolment applications in accordance with the following priority order of placement:

1. Students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time.
2. Students who reside nearest to the school. See the following web page for information on transport assistance: [Getting to and from school for students with disability | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](http://www.vic.gov.au)

The school must ensure that all applicants eligible under the first criterion have been offered a place before moving to consideration of the second criterion.

### Verification of permanent address

When assessing enrolment applications under the priority order of placement, Victorian College for the Deaf may ask for supporting documentation to assist them in verifying a student's permanent residence.

Victorian College for the Deaf may request original or certified copies of rental agreements, unconditional contracts of sale or other official documentation that demonstrates permanent residence.

Documents should show the same address and parent's/carer's name as recorded on the school enrolment application form.

The school may also make the following enquiries to verify the information provided:

- a) checking the electoral roll at an Australian Electoral Commission office or the Victorian Electoral Commission head office
- b) checking with a real estate agent to confirm a rental address
- c) for a rental property which is a studio apartment or a one-bedroom unit, checking whether there are any regulations/codes limiting the occupancy of these

apartments to one person per apartment.

The enrolment application may be unsuccessful if, after reasonable enquiries, the Principal is unable to verify that the evidence provided is genuine and valid. Applicants may then seek to appeal the decision according to the Appeal process outlined below.

#### Enrolment on compassionate grounds

In exceptional circumstances, a student seeking enrolment at Victorian College for the Deaf who meets the enrolment criteria may be approved by the Regional Director South West Victoria outside of the priority order of placement, based on compassionate grounds. This is an overarching consideration and does not form part of the priority order of placement. Further advice and support when considering applications on compassionate grounds is available on the [Policy and Advisory Library](#) and from regional staff.

## EVIDENCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

To support a student's application for enrolment, the following evidence and supporting information should be provided:

- a) An audiogram with a written statement is required from a qualified audiologist.

The Department provides assessment services to support specialist schools in determining whether the student meets their enrolment criteria. Department regional offices also play a role in supporting specialist schools with enrolment processes.

**NOTE: Enrolment applications may not be successful if the requested documentation is not provided or invalid.**

## APPEAL PROCESS

Parents/carers can appeal against the decision not to approve an enrolment. This can occur in relation to enrolments at any age level. Parents or carers seeking to appeal a specialist school's enrolment decision should lodge a written appeal with the school. The Department will contact parents/carers with further information after an appeal is lodged.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to the school community via:

- School website
- Staff induction and handbook

## REVIEW CYCLE

<b>Policy approved by</b>	Marg Tope – Principal, 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	September 2027



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