



Update from the VICSES Volunteer Leadership Group (Incorporated)

31st July 2025

Dear VICSES Volunteers,

On behalf of the VICSES Volunteer Leadership Group (VLG), we're excited to announce that in June, the VLG was incorporated as an association under Victorian laws and elected its inaugural (interim) board.

The VLG is a volunteer-led body representing current and future volunteers and we are committed to amplifying your voice as VICSES volunteers. This inaugural board serves as an interim group solely to get the structure established so we write today to share an update on our progress and plans over coming months.

For some time, we have advocated for a renewed and more effective volunteers' association. Despite best efforts, VICSESVA has shown a lack of willingness to engage meaningfully on critical reforms required. In November 2023, VICSESVA held a failed Annual General Meeting (AGM) and has not convened one since, likely placing it in breach of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. Essentially, our confidence as volunteers in VICSESVA, its governance and transparency has eroded. Under VICSESVA's constitution, regional councils serve as the mechanism for electing board members; however, when several regional councils were formed in 2024 by volunteers seeking better representation, we believe they were refused their rightful place on the board, underscoring the significant barriers to meaningful change.

The VLG has now been incorporated as an association under relevant Victorian laws, developing a constitution in accordance with Consumer Affairs Victoria rules and seeking legal advice on best practice processes. This formal structure establishes true accountability to our volunteer members and will enable an elected leadership framework. An inaugural board has been elected as an interim step to develop the policy and procedures required and design a democratic framework where volunteer representatives are elected across each Unit Advisory Group (UAG) area for genuine, grassroots-driven governance and advocacy that amplifies the voices of all VICSES volunteers. Once a framework is developed, a full new board, elected by the broader membership, will then be elected in Q4 2025.

Our inaugural (interim) board is:

- Mike Bagnall (President)
- Goldie Pergl (Vice President)
- Justin Kibell (Secretary)
- Matthew Rankin (Treasurer)
- John Bates
- George Haitidis
- Ben Owen



Next Steps and Timeline:

- **Q3 2025:** Develop democratic framework, election processes, and transparent policy/procedure frameworks to prioritise accountability.
- **Q4 2025:** Hold elections for representatives (from all UAGs) and appoint a full new board, inviting participation from all eligible VICSES volunteers across the state.

We are committed to consulting with all VICSES volunteers to shape the future of the VLG. To ensure your voices guide our direction, we're developing a website and member portal to enhance connectivity and participation.

We urge all volunteers to complete our survey to share your feedback and ideas on what you want from a volunteer-led body. Your input is critical to building a VLG that truly represents and advocates for all volunteers - please take a moment to fill it out.

More details on member engagement will follow soon.

Together, we can build unified representation for a powerful volunteer voice.

Kind Regards,

Mike Bagnall
President – VICSES Volunteer Leadership Group