

VASS: How to use and manipulate

Jan Miletic

- Teacher since 1983
- VCAL teacher (PDS, WRS, Literacy) since 2010
- VASS coordinator 2011 – 2016
- VCAL coordinator 2009 – 2015
- VCAL Quality Assurance Panel (Loddon Mallee region) since 2012
- Won the VCAL Teacher Integrated Program award in 2011.

Who do we have here?

VCAL Teachers?

VCAL coordinators?

VCAL VASS administrators?

I am assuming we are discussing students in Year 11
and Year 12 VCAL?

Importance of VASS

- Ensure kids are eligible for Certificates
- Keep regular check on progress
- Wave under noses of “at risk kids”
- Enrolled in enough units
- Enrolled in correct units

VASS Documents

VASS is all set up in February to ensure we get funding.
BUT we can change throughout the year.

- Classlists
- Unit enrolments
- Certificate level lists
- Full Details
- Eligibility Reports



Disclaimer

Every school is different.

- VCAL program structure
- Assessment
- Results recording (S/N)

So you must work within your school's organizational structure. It took me 3 years to convince my S + L leader that VCAL assessment and recording is very different from VCE.

Disclaimer

So know and really get on well with

The S+ L leader

VCAL coordinator

VCE Pathways Leader?

VASS coordinator (lots of wine and chocolates)

(Took me 3 months to convince the VASS coordinator at my current school that I really need the Eligibility reports. Very hesitant to hand them over!!)

Disclaimer

Two different types of VCAL programs:

VCAL only (such as my current school)	VCAL mixed with VCE (my old school)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students only do VET and VCAL subjects• Year levels are defined<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yr 11 is Intermediate• Yr 12 is Senior• Sometimes a student could do Foundation/Intermediate over 2 years• Not much scope in terms of manipulating VASS• Higher level of failure, if the students do not perform • Can work well with Year 12, provided the students have enough credits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students do a combination of VET, VCAL units (PDS, WRS, LIT and NUM or English and Maths) in Year 11• This maximizes the number of credits they can achieve thus use the left over credits next year. • In my old school<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PDS and WRS were combined in a block.• The students chose English/LIT and Maths/NUM and VET in other blocks then other VCE or VET units.

RESULTS

- Official VCAL results only have to be S or N
- Each LO must be an S to get an overall S result for the unit. (PDS, WRS, LIT)
- Results DO NOT have to be finalized until the final SIAR 5 date in November (this year 13/11/2017)
 - For both semester 1 and 2 units for both Yr 11 + 12
- Your school will determine what and when results are recorded.
- Next page show the reporting codes that I have used for both Yr 11 + 12, mid and end of year.
 - VASS, I only recorded S or N, at the end of the year. Gives the kids a chance to ensure that they officially complete all tasks especially if they are integrated programs by November.

RESULTS

- **I have used these for reports for both Year 11 and Year 12.**
- **VCAL REPORTING CODES**
- Under the learning outcomes on the report, you can choose from the following options:
- C (Competent) – The required assessment in each learning outcome for an overall grade of Satisfactory for the Unit. The only exception to this is when a report lists outcomes for multiple units and a student is not enrolled in all of them [see NE below]
- NYS (Not Yet Started) – Suitable for students who transferred late into class or had extended absences and therefore did not undertake the relevant assessment tasks for the learning outcome.
- IN (In Progress) – Suitable for students who have commenced the relevant assessment tasks for the learning outcome but not yet demonstrated competency. This is the ‘honorable unsatisfactory/incomplete’ option.
- NC (Not Competent) – To be used sparingly, only when students have had every opportunity to demonstrate competency but have proven themselves incapable or unwilling to do so.
- NE (Not Enrolled) – Relevant in PDS/WRS if students are enrolled in some of the units for which learning outcomes are listed, but not all of them. Also relevant in Literacy if a student is not enrolled in the Oral Communication Unit. However, please note that students are enrolled by default in all of the units for which learning outcomes appear on the report, unless you have requested for them to be withdrawn on VASS.
- NW (Not Working/Achieving)- Relevant for all VCAL units if students are not working or achieving sufficiently to demonstrate competency in an area due to lack of attendance, lack of work or lack of participation. Competency may not be achieved due to lack of work/commitment/attitude/participation.

What kids need?

Minimum of 10 Credits per Certificate

PDS	X	2
WRS	X	2
LIT	X	1
NUM	X	1
Industry (VET)	X	1
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All VCE units 1 + 2 will give the kids Intermediate credits
All VCE units 3 + 4 will give the kids Senior Units
Same as VET competencies at the different levels.

Where do they get the extra credits from?

Oral (General Unit) x 1
VCE units x 2 – 4
VET x can be up to 6 credits
Other levels units of PDS, WRS, Oral.

Minimum of 6 Credits at the Certificate Level

Eg 6 Senior to get a Senior Certificate
6 Intermediate to get an Intermediate Certificate.

Thus

a Senior Certificate can be made up of 6 senior units (1 PDS, 1 WRS, 1 LIT) and 4 Intermediate Units

An Intermediate Certificate can be made up of 6 Intermediate Credits (PDS, WRS, LIT, NUM) and 4 credits from Foundation or Senior.

Eligibility Report

Students MUST have:

- 1 credit PDS
- 1 Credit WRS
- 1 credit LIT
- 1 Credit NUM
- 1 credit IND

Technically the kids only need

1 Industry credit

1 Numeracy credit

To get all certificates.

I never ever tell them that!!!.

How to read and use the eligibility report.

How and when to manipulate VASS?

- 1. When deciding upon Certificate Levels.
- You can enroll students in two certificate levels and units for each at the beginning of the year.
- Once you have decided what level they really are at (usually half year), un-enroll them from the other level. (Check eligibility to ensure they have enough credits).

How and when to manipulate VASS?

- 2. When deciding upon units and unit levels.
- You can enroll students in multiple units at various levels. This is useful especially if you do not know their capabilities.
- Eg: PDS Unit 1 and 2 at both Intermediate and Senior level for a Year 12. By half way through the year you will know which level they are at then you can withdraw them from the other level.
- Decide whether LIT or NUM would be best for Yr 11 as they only give one credit or VCE Foundation English and Maths which give 2 each, and automatic Intermediate credits.

How and when to manipulate VASS?

- **3. Adding extra units**
- What if when checking eligibility report the student will be short a unit or two?
- These can be added any time up to the very last minute (for VCAL units – provided you have “evidence” that the students have done the work).
- You cannot do 4 units of PDS (or WRS) in one year but you could get away with 3 (you just have to ensure you have documentation to prove the work).
- You can add VET UoC anytime (your VET coordinator will hate you and there is no funding) to help build up credits.

How and when to manipulate VASS?

- Struggling student at Year 11 (often we know these kids– thus Foundation)
- That is why you need to check eligibility reports regularly. No nasty surprises!!

Will fail Foundation or Intermediate Level	Will not have enough credits?
<p>Sometimes we can do nothing.</p> <p>I have un-enrolled students from VCAL if they will not pass anything, HOWEVER, if they continue into year 12 then I mark the competencies they have passed so that I can use them again the following year. They will “fail” and that is recorded against the school.</p> <p>The following year the student can be enrolled in 2 certificates. They complete the competencies from the previous year so that they get the credit for it.</p>	<p>A) <u>Not enough VET credits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll students in various VET subjects to get the nominal hours. They only need 90 hours to get 1 credit. • I always found Hospitality and Building Construction have simple outcomes that the kids can do. • Your VET coordinator won't be happy as the students wont be eligible for any funding. <p>B) <u>Not enough credits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in extra VCAL units (eg Oral at a different level, or PDS/WRS at a lower level if they don't already have. Remember Foundation can add to Intermediate Certificate only) • Enroll in VCE units 1 or 2 (can go for full year) • Enroll in VCE Foundation English and Maths and do along side with Literacy + Numeracy. Beware of double dipping.

How and when to manipulate VASS?

- Struggling student at Year 12 (often we know these kids already at Yr 11 – thus Foundation)
- That is why you need to check eligibility reports regularly. No nasty surprises!!

Will fail Senior level but already has Intermediate	Will not have enough credits? They will have to work a bit more to get a completion.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat Intermediate units (but they may not get credit for it). • They can still get “passes” and <u>complete Year 12.</u> • Each school should be giving their student a certificate for Year 12 completion (for both VCE and VCAL). • Change student enroll towards end of year <u>from Senior to Intermediate</u> so that they won’t have a fail (and for school overall results). • They will graduate with an Intermediate certificate. 	<p>A) <u>Not enough VET credits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll students in various VET subjects to get the nominal hours. They only need 90 hours to get 1 credit. • I always found Hospitality and Building Construction have simple outcomes that the kids can do. • Your VET coordinator won’t be happy as the students won’t be eligible for any funding. <p>B) <u>Not enough credits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in extra VCAL units (eg Oral at a different level, or PDS/WRS at a lower level if they don’t already have. Remember Foundation can add to Intermediate Certificate only) • Enroll in VCE units 1 or 2. • See previous years results and add another certificate level so that the kids can “finish and pass” those competencies.

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- Currently at Catholic College Bendigo teaching Year 12 PDS and WRS, Year 11 WRS, Year 11 Community projects and VCAL Life Skills elective.