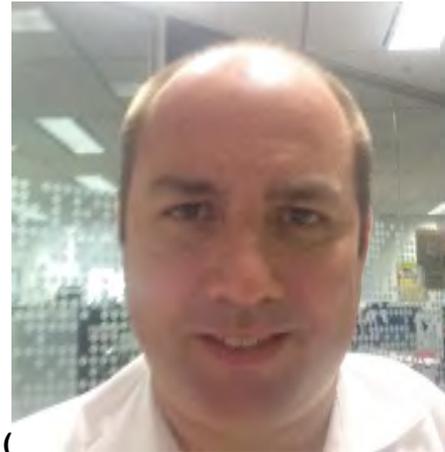


# CHRIS INGHAM

EXECUTIVE MANAGER,  
APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

VICTORIAN REGISTRATION AND  
QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (VRQA)



## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Executive Manager of Apprenticeships and Traineeships at the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) since December 2012. Chris is in charge of regulation of the apprenticeship and traineeship system in Victoria.

In 2011-12 Chris was on secondment as Project Director, Market Reform at the then Department of Human Services, working on reform options for the \$3 billion+ government-funded service delivery market.

From 2006 to 2011 Chris was an executive in the (now called) Higher Education and Skills Group, with responsibility for vocational education and training policy, budget processes and youth transitions.

Chris has a particular passion for youth transitions: finding the best ways to help young people progress from senior secondary schooling to independent adult working life, via education and work. Chris' research led to the establishment of the Apprenticeship Support Officer program in Victoria, initially funded by the Commonwealth Government through a National Partnership. The program has run for five years and supports apprentices at the greatest risk of dropping out.

Chris spent three years in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, in the Social Policy Division, covering education, immigration, border protection and multiculturalism. Prior to the public sector Chris was as a consultant for a firm of migration agents and a University tutor.

Chris is a Spanish speaker with a strong interest in Australian-Latin American relations. In 2012 on behalf of the Department of Human Services he hosted a Paraguayan delegation of senior officials on an AusAID-funded trip to Australia.

### Key Functions within the VRQA

Responsible for regulation of the apprenticeship and traineeship system in Victoria.

Regulation involves checking the compliance of employers, apprentices and trainees with the requirements of the training contract in accordance with section 5.5 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. Sanctions include cancelling training contracts and removing the authority of employers to employ apprentices/trainees.

Regulation is conducted by a network of Authorised Officers. Following a 2013 tender process, this activity is mostly undertaken by the non-profit organisation BUSY at Work under contract to the VRQA.