

# Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Additional Information 2010–11



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# Reporting requirements

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the Department and are available to the relevant Ministers, Members of Parliament and the public on request (subject to Freedom of Information requirements, if applicable):

- a statement that declarations of private interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers
- details of shares held by a senior officer as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary
- details of publications produced by the entity about the entity and the places where they can be obtained
- details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the Department for its services, including services that are administered
- details of any major external reviews carried out in respect of the operation of the Department
- details of any other research and development activities undertaken by the Department
- details of overseas visits undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
- details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Department to develop community awareness of the services provided by the Department
- details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety (OHS) of employees
- a general statement on industrial relations within the Department and details of time lost through industrial accidents or disputes
- a list of major committees sponsored by the Department, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved.

To ensure that the Department is meeting its accountability and compliance requirements, some of this additional information has been included in the Annual Report where relevant.

## Pecuniary interests

Declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers.

## Shares held by senior officers

No senior officer holds shares as a nominee or beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary.

## Publications

Details of publications produced by the Department about the Department and how these can be obtained are available below.

Table 1 Publications		
Publication	Produced	Link
<i>ACFE Board Annual Report 2009–10</i>	September 2010	<a href="http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/communitydevelopment/publications-and-research/ACFE-Publications-and-Research">http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/communitydevelopment/publications-and-research/ACFE-Publications-and-Research</a>
<i>DEECD Annual Report 2009–10</i>	September 2010	<a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/annualreport/default.htm">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/annualreport/default.htm</a>
<i>VSC Annual Report 2009–10</i>	September 2010	<a href="http://www.vsc.vic.gov.au/publications">http://www.vsc.vic.gov.au/publications</a>
<i>State of Victoria's Children Report 2009</i>	August 2010	<a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/children/annualreports.htm">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/children/annualreports.htm</a>
<i>Ultranet Parent Handbook</i>	April 2011	<a href="http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ultranet/Parent_Guide.pdf">http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ultranet/Parent_Guide.pdf</a>
<i>Victorian Training Guarantee Progress Report: Year Report 2010</i>	April 2011	<a href="http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/corporate/publications/research-and-reports/victorian-training-guarantee-progress-reports">http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/corporate/publications/research-and-reports/victorian-training-guarantee-progress-reports</a>
<i>Victorian Training Guarantee Progress Report: Quarter 1, 2011</i>	May 2011	<a href="http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/corporate/publications/research-and-reports/victorian-training-guarantee-progress-reports">http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/corporate/publications/research-and-reports/victorian-training-guarantee-progress-reports</a>
<i>Victoria's Training Market: Early Indicators of Success</i>	June 2011	<a href="http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/corporate/publications/research-and-reports">http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/corporate/publications/research-and-reports</a>
<i>Welcome to Early Childhood Services</i>	October 2010	<a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/newsinfo/welcomeecservices.htm">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/newsinfo/welcomeecservices.htm</a>
<i>Welcome to Primary School</i>	October 2010	<a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/newsinfo/welcomeprimaryschool.htm">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/newsinfo/welcomeprimaryschool.htm</a>
<i>Welcome to Secondary School</i>	July 2010	<a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/newsinfo/secondaryschool.htm">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/newsinfo/secondaryschool.htm</a>
<i>2009 Teacher Supply and Demand Report</i>	December 2010	<a href="http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/hr/recruit/Teach/Teacher-Supply-and-Demand-Report.pdf">http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/hr/recruit/Teach/Teacher-Supply-and-Demand-Report.pdf</a>

# Changes to prices, fees, charges, rates and levies

Details of current prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the Department are outlined on [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au) and [www.foi.vic.gov.au](http://www.foi.vic.gov.au)

## Major external reviews

Details of any major external reviews undertaken by independent parties outside the Department are available below.

Table 2 Reviews			
Review	Conducted by	Purpose	Completed
Administration of Building the Education Revolution (BER) program	Parliament of Victoria Education and Training Committee	Inquiry into the administration of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) program in Victoria.	27 August 2010
Early Childhood Development Services: access and quality	Victorian Auditor-General	The audit examined the access to, and quality of, early childhood development services, specifically kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health.	Tabled: 25 May 2011
Indigenous education strategies for government schools	Victorian Auditor-General	The objective of the audit was to determine the effectiveness of the Department's implementation of the Wannik strategy and whether it is achieving its aim.	Tabled: 1 June 2011
Inquiry into the potential for developing opportunities for schools to become a focus for promoting healthy community living	Parliament of Victoria – Education and Training Committee	Inquiry into the potential for developing opportunities for schools to become a focus for promoting healthy community living.	September 2010
Managing student safety	Victorian Auditor-General	The audit examined whether the Department has provided students in government schools with a safe environment where the risk of harm is minimised and students feel physically and emotionally secure.	Tabled: 4 May 2011
Portfolio departments: interim results of the 2009–10 audits	Victorian Auditor-General	Informed Parliament about internal control issues arising from Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) interim financial audit of the 11 portfolio departments and recommended improvement in their internal controls.	Tabled: 28 July 2010
Tertiary education and other entities: results of the 2010 audits	Victorian Auditor-General	Informed Parliament about significant issues arising from the audits of financial and performance reports and augmented the assurance provided through audit opinions included in the respective entities' annual reports.	Tabled: 25 May 2011
Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority	Victorian Auditor-General	The audit sought to assess how well the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) performs its functions relating to the registration and monitoring of VET providers, both public and private.	Tabled: 7 October 2010

# Major research and development

Details of major research and development activities undertaken by the Department are available below.

**Table 3 Research and development**

Research	Conducted by	Purpose
Abilities-based Learning and Education Support program (Stage 1)	The University of Melbourne	To undertake research to inform the development of a curriculum, profiling and support model for children and young people with intellectual disabilities in the Program for Students with Disabilities.
Access to early learning: a new service model to improve the engagement of vulnerable children in early education and care	KPMG	To develop a new service model comprising five interconnected components, which aim to address barriers to access experienced by children and families that are vulnerable and underrepresented in universal early education and care services.
Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Quality Pre-accredited Delivery Longitudinal Study	The University of Melbourne	A longitudinal study to address the impact and effectiveness of ACFE-funded pre-accredited programs by surveying pre-accredited learners.
Blue Sky research project	Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Division, DEECD	An extensive place-based research and collaborative work, focusing on the suburb of Melton South. The project hypothesises that a revised model of service delivery (in health, education and welfare) could shift the developmental trajectory of children aged 0–8 years in Melton South. The final report is expected to be released by December 2011.
Deferring a university offer in regional Victoria: the 2006 Year 12 graduates four years out	Youth Affairs Council of Victoria and The University of Melbourne	A four-year study into deferral rates among young people in regional Victoria. The survey looked at the long-term effects of deferring the taking up an offer of a university place by regional school leavers and their subsequent education, training and employment prospects.
Early Childhood Intervention Services reform project, stage 2	Allen Consulting Group	To develop options for a new evidence-based service delivery model, streamlined program structure and funding model, governance and accountability framework and future roles for government and the community sector.
Early Home Learning Study	Parenting Research Centre	To support up to 2000 families across Victoria experiencing difficulty providing an enriched home-environment for their children. With a focus on parents with children aged under 3, the study seeks to improve children's outcomes, build the capacity of existing services and contribute to the knowledge base in this key area.
Maternal and Child Health Key Ages and Stages Evaluation	Centre for Community Child Health	A three-year evaluation, focusing on the implementation of the key ages and stages framework into Maternal and Child Health practice. The Year 1 progress report has been released and the Year 2 progress report commences in July 2011.
Regional network evaluation 2010–14	The University of Melbourne	A five-year formative evaluation of the leadership and advisory development structure. Focus is on providing ongoing feedback and advice to the Department, regions and schools on how the networks are working to lift student outcomes and to maximise the impact of policy implementation and the network model.  Work commenced in May 2010. Phase 1 report was delivered in December 2010.

Table 3 Research and development

Research	Conducted by	Purpose
The Victorian Breastfeeding Research project	Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Division, DEECD and La Trobe University	<p>The Breastfeeding research project has two components:</p> <p>The Victorian Breastfeeding Action Plan (VBAP) aims to increase breastfeeding rates in Victoria through a number of recommended practical strategies. It is expected that the VBAP will be released by December 2011.</p> <p>A three-arm randomised control trial (RCT), in consultation with La Trobe University, to test the effect of community interventions, such as regular visits by a maternal and child health nurse, to increase the maintenance of breastfeeding rates. The RCT final report is due for completion by June 2014.</p>
To further develop and refine the School Centres for Teaching Excellence concept by undertaking extensive research and consultation and then designing operating model options, including the roles and responsibilities of the range of stakeholder participants.	Laulon Research Consortium	<p>School Centres for Teaching Excellence (SCTE) are a mandatory facilitation reform under the Smarter Schools National Partnership on improving teacher quality.</p> <p>Pilot centres will be set up to enable partnerships of universities and schools to establish leading practice in providing quality pre-service education, and continuing professional learning and research opportunities. In Victoria, these centres will be called School Centres for Teaching Excellence.</p>
Ultrahet research and evaluation	Education Services Australia	A longitudinal project (2010–13) to conduct research into and evaluate the extent to which the objectives and key performance indicators of the Ultrahet have been achieved, and to inform ongoing monitoring and longer-term strategic planning.

# Overseas travel

Details of overseas travel undertaken by Victorian Public Service (VPS) staff, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each trip, are available below.

**Table 4 Overseas travel**

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
<b>Office for Government School Education</b>			
Deputy Secretary	China United States	To meet with educational jurisdictions in Beijing and Shanghai and IT executives in San Francisco.	Established and modelled a good-practice example of a school-to-school relationship with Jin Cai High School; strengthened government-to-government links, particularly through signing a Letter of Intent to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Education and engagement with the Malaysian delegation from the Prime Minister's Office; and established key partnerships with IT executives in San Francisco to expand the iPad trail in Victoria.
Manager Coordination and Strategy Division	France Turkey	To evaluate the 2011 Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize study tour.	Enabled further insight into the study tour; assessed the ongoing benefits to the Department of this competition; and investigated ways in which the competition can be better promoted and integrated within the Victorian education system.
Manager Education Partnerships Division	Canada United States	To undertake a Grampians Region study tour.	Influenced future directions in relation to the roll-out of the Ultranet, the development of personalised, virtual and blended learning models, education access and provision for all Victorian students (including students at risk), the future role of the Distance Education Centre Victoria (DECV), and rural education initiatives, including video-conferencing and Year 12 retention.
Senior Project Officer Secretariat	China United States	To meet with educational jurisdictions in Beijing and Shanghai and IT executives in San Francisco .	Established and modelled a good-practice example of a school-to-school relationship with Jin Cai High School; strengthened government-to-government links, particularly through signing a Letter of Intent to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Education and engagement with the Malaysian delegation from the Prime Minister's Office; and established key partnerships with IT executives in San Francisco to expand the iPad trail in Victoria.
Executive Director Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat	China	To meet with Global Education Leadership program (GELP) members.	Improved understanding of how various jurisdictions internationally are approaching the task of system reform; appreciation of the factors and trends that are impacting on the education systems of the world; and a deeper understanding of the skills and capabilities required to undertake system leadership work and contribute to policy discussion about the next stage of reform in Victoria.
Manager, Divisional Projects School Improvement Division	Hungary	To deliver a presentation at the International Society for Education through Art 2011 World Congress.	Showcased the work of the Victorian education system, with considerable interest generated by conference organisers and participants. Distributed Victoria's Public Art Teaching Excellence resource, and linked to symposium participants with a broad range of organisations worldwide.



Table 4 Overseas travel

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
Senior Policy Officer Student Learning Division	China	To accompany the 2010 Principals' Study Tour to China.	Provided the opportunity for participating principals to strengthen the Chinese language program in their schools through the establishment of sister-school relationships, the Confucius Classroom program, the Chinese Language and Culture Exploratorium and the introduction of Chinese language program to non-background students.
Assistant General Manager Student Learning Division	China	To participate in the Shanghai World Expo Official Delegation.	Successfully hosted a large exhibit at the Shanghai World Expo, which involved showcasing the Victorian 'Classroom of the Future'. The classroom highlighted the innovative teaching and learning technologies designed and implemented in the Victorian government school system.
Chief Executive Officer School Sport Victoria	United Kingdom	To participate in a study tour and conference hosted by UK Sport Trust.	Provided a unique opportunity to learn about the work of the United Kingdom and New Zealand in increasing the take-up of school sport, and the data collection and evaluation processes that are providing compelling evidence of the link between sport and academic achievement.
General Manager School Improvement Division	China United States	To meet with educational jurisdictions in Beijing and Shanghai and IT executives in San Francisco.	Established and modelled a good-practice example of a school-to-school relationship with Jin Cai High School; strengthened government-to-government links, particularly through signing a Letter of Intent to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Education and engagement with the Malaysian delegation from the Prime Minister's Office; and established key partnerships with IT executives in San Francisco to expand the iPad trail in Victoria.
Senior Project Officer Student Learning Division	China	To lead government, Catholic and independent school teachers participating in the China study tour.	Greater intercultural understanding particularly in relation to China; developed a website with units of work from all participants across all year levels and learning areas to engage students with China; and delivered professional development through ICT to teachers about China.
Manager Student Learning Division	China	To participate in the Shanghai World Expo Official Delegation.	Successfully hosted a large exhibit at the Shanghai World Expo, which involved the showcasing of the Victorian 'Classroom of the Future'. The classroom highlighted the innovative teaching and learning technologies designed and implemented in the Victorian government school system.
Senior Project Officer Multicultural Education Unit Student Learning Division	Costa Rica	To present at a conference hosted by the Ministry of Public Education, Costa Rica: 'Sustainable regional education efforts for safer and more inclusive communities'.	Established ongoing collaboration and resource sharing with education department officials in Costa Rica, Kenya, Montenegro, Trinidad and Tobago, Philippines and Guatemala.
Senior Project Officer Student Learning Division	Germany	To deliver the keynote presentation on the development of the ResourceSmart AuSSI, Victorian framework at the International Greening education event.	Established foundations for links between Victorian and Italian, Canadian and German schools; obtained environmental sustainability resources from Latvia for use in curriculum and policy development; invited to provide presentation linking Karlsruhe/Hamburg and Victorian schools at the 2012 conference.
Language Advisor Student Learning Division	Malaysia	To accompany 20 Year 10 students on the Indonesian Language Student study tour to Malaysia.	Provided an in-country immersion opportunity for Victorian Year 10 students of Indonesian committed to continuing their Indonesian language study at VCE level. Program included an intensive language course and a two-week home stay.

Table 4 Overseas travel

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
Senior Policy Officer School Improvement Division	China	To strengthen relationships with senior personnel in the Ministry of Education, Beijing and participate in the Department's classroom exhibit and seminar program at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.	<p>Signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Education in the areas of professional learning and leadership development, and strengthened school-to-school partnerships.</p> <p>Established a model and good-practice example of a long-term meaningful and mutually beneficial school-to-school relationship.</p> <p>Revitalised the approach to engagement with China in relation to international students, including through strengthened relationship with education agents.</p>
General Manager Education Partnerships Division	China	To attend the Shanghai World Expo and showcase Victoria's Connections 2010 Classroom exhibit to increase Victoria's reputation in China as a provider of high-quality school education.	<p>Provided significant opportunities for future collaboration through strengthened government-to-government links, particularly through signing a Letter of Intent to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Education and engagement with the Malaysian delegation from the Prime Minister's Office.</p> <p>Strengthened the relationships with international education agents and provided an opportunity to enhance guidelines for the design and implementation of overseas study experiences.</p>
<b>Office for Resources and Infrastructure</b>			
Deputy Secretary	China United States	To meet with educational jurisdictions in Beijing and Shanghai and IT executives in San Francisco.	<p>Further developed relationships with education authorities and negotiated strategic alliances with leading educationalists in China.</p> <p>Successfully hosted a large exhibit at the Shanghai World Expo, which involved the showcasing of the Victorian 'Classroom of the Future'. The classroom highlighted the innovative teaching and learning technologies designed and implemented in the Victorian government school system.</p> <p>Developed opportunities to expand the iPad trial in the Victorian school system and build on the strategic partnership between the Department and the IT companies.</p>
General Manger Infrastructure Division	France	To deliver a presentation and lead a working group at a forum with the OECD Board of Participants.	Successfully showcased Victoria's schools infrastructure programs, further developed relationships with education authorities, and negotiated strategic alliances with leading educationalists from across the world.
Executive Assistant Office for Resources and Infrastructure	China	To participate in Shanghai World Expo official delegation.	Successfully hosted a large exhibit at the Shanghai World Expo, which involved the showcasing of the Victorian 'Classroom of the Future'. The classroom highlighted the innovative teaching and learning technologies designed and implemented in the Victorian government school system.
Assistant General Manager Financial Services Division	United States	To attend the 2010 Association of School Business Officials international meeting.	Delivered a presentation on school funding and self-management, compared the policies and procedures of the Department with current world's best practice, gained a broader international perspective on school resourcing and related issues, and presented the outcomes of the meeting to the Victorian State-wide Business Manager Group.
Manager Research and Workforce Planning	United Kingdom	To attend meetings with the Training and Development Agency (English Government), Teacher Education Review team (Scottish Government), Dean of Education University of Glasgow and education faculty staff at Manchester University.	Presented the Department's latest work in the development of School Centres for Teaching Excellence program and teacher workforce planning. Established relationships and a basis for future collaboration with English and Scottish education authorities in the development and evaluation of key teacher education initiatives.

Table 4 Overseas travel

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
<b>Office for Policy Research and Innovation</b>			
Deputy Secretary	China	To participate in the Global Education Leaders program and present the keynote address: 'The Victorian Education System: from improvement to transformation', participate in school visits and meet with key education contacts.	<p>Established a relationship to secure Professor Yong Zhao as a speaker in the Department's Thought Leadership program in 2011.</p> <p>Extended the partnership with SuperClubsPlusAustralia schools in China for potential intercultural understanding field trials in 2011.</p> <p>Strengthened the relationship with the faculty at Shanghai Normal University and the Hanban Institute.</p>
Manager Research Branch Education Policy and Research Division	Germany	To report on the findings of Victorian research undertaken as part of the OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) Innovative Learning Environments (ILE) project.	Discussed the progress of the OECD ILE research, with each country or jurisdiction providing an overview of their case/s, updates and plans. Research methodologies, issues, emerging findings, change strategies and next steps were also discussed. Internationally, the Victorian cases were a stand-out and at the forefront internationally of research into new digital and physical spaces.
General Manager International Education Division	China	To evaluate the contribution of the Eastern Metropolitan Region Asia Education Foundation study tour to the development of teacher leadership skills, level of confidence to teach about Asia, and integration of global perspectives into the curriculum.	<p>Participant feedback indicated increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and education, and broader perspectives.</p> <p>Formal partnerships were established to enable reciprocal professional learning, student and teacher exchange, and a formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Jiangsu provincial government.</p>
General Manager Innovation and Next Practice Division	Thailand	To attend and present at the Microsoft Education Leaders forum, participate in school visits and meet with key educational contacts.	Gained an understanding of the current work being undertaken to identify and assess 21st century skills across the Australasian region.
Senior Project Officer International Education Division	South Korea	To investigate why market share for international students declined significantly in 2010.	Determined that price is a major factor, with Australia now one of the most expensive destinations, and that interest in studying in Australia has not declined. Families who have chosen Australia as a study destination will postpone enrolment until the exchange rate improves. Established that the Department has a high profile in South Korea, and that the United States has undertaken aggressive marketing in South Korea in 2010–11.
General Manager International Education Division	Vietnam	To assess the market potential for international students and represent the Department at an international student recruitment fair.	Raised Victoria's profile as a destination of choice, gathered market intelligence relating to future promotional campaigns and product development, and enhanced relationships with education agents and identified areas for improvement.
Project Officer International Education Division	Vietnam	To assess the market potential for international students and represent the Department at an international student recruitment fair.	Raised Victoria's profile as a destination of choice, gathered market intelligence relating to future promotional campaigns and product development, and enhanced relationships with education agents and identified areas for improvement.
Project Officer International Education Division	China Hong Kong	To strengthen Victoria's market position, and promote the Victorian education system and accredited schools through active participation in targeted education fairs and exhibitions.	Strengthened education networks through active participation in recruitment fairs. Enhanced Victorian government school brand awareness and positioning. Further developed the capacity of participating schools in terms of market awareness and program requirements.
Project Officer International Education Division	Vietnam	To promote the Victorian government school sector as the preferred destination for fee-paying overseas students through engagement of key education agents and participation in targeted recruitment fairs.	Strengthened the Victorian government school profile and education agents supporting the government sector.

Table 4 Overseas travel

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
Manager International Education Division	Vietnam	To promote the Victorian government school sector as the preferred destination for fee-paying overseas students through engagement of key education agents and participation in targeted recruitment fairs.	Strengthened the Victorian government school profile and education agents supporting the government sector.
Manager International Education Division	South Korea	To promote the Victorian government school sector as the preferred destination for fee-paying overseas students through engagement of eight key education agents.	Strengthened the Victorian government school profile and education agents supporting the government sector.
Group Manager Research Branch	Finland United Kingdom	To undertake a research and study tour to share Victorian practice in relation to the development of new physical spaces and the Ultranet, conduct site visits, and discover new ways to evaluate physical and virtual learning spaces and student outcomes.	Presented a seminar at the Learning Sciences Research Institute, University of Nottingham, and a paper at the Association of Learning Technologies annual conference.  Undertook school visits, presentations and meetings with educators and researchers. Identified parallel research projects relevant to Victoria.  Feedback from the seminar and subsequent meetings was incorporated into the planning and conceptual framework for the Department's program of research into learning spaces.
General Manager Student Pathways	Canada France Norway United Kingdom United States	To attend the Building Block of Education summit.  To meet with OECD officials.  To attend Jobs for Youth conference.  To meet with officers in the Department for Education and Qualification and Curriculum Development Agency.  To meet with Professor Norton Grubb, David Gardner Chair in Higher Education, University of California at Berkley.	Investigated how standards and assessment can improve literacy and numeracy skills, how the use of assessment and data can improve performance in classrooms, and at school, district and Departmental level.  Discussed international policy initiatives to improve individual outcomes and economic productivity through VET sector reform.  Delivered the Australian jurisdiction address on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.  Discussed the introduction of functional literacy, numeracy and ICT standards into UK school Diplomas.  Discussed the development and implementation of industry-themed diplomas that are similar in design to the industry-themed pathways foreshadowed for the Victorian education system.  Visited City Community College and Berkley High School to learn about their approach to increasing participation and qualification attainment.
International Education Division	China South Korea	To represent the Department at an education fair.	Assisted with the coordination of two open days for international students as part of the Department's 'Connections' display at the Shanghai World Expo.  Coordinated a display with the support of two government school representatives and also gave a presentation at the event.
General Manager Innovation and Next Practice	China	To participate in the Global Education Leaders program, undertake school visits, meet with key education contacts and present a keynote address to the Beijing Normal University.	Established a relationship to secure Professor Yong Zhao as a speaker in the Department's Thought Leadership program in 2011.  Extended the partnership with SuperClubsPlusAustralia schools in China for potential intercultural understanding Field Trials in 2011.  Strengthened the relationship with the faculty at Shanghai Normal University and the Hanban Institute.

Table 4 Overseas travel

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
General Manager International Education Division	China	To strengthen relationships with senior personnel in the Ministry of Education, Beijing and participate in the Department's classroom exhibit and seminar program at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.	Signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Education in the areas of professional learning, leadership development, strengthened school-to-school partnerships.  Established a model and good-practice example of a long-term meaningful and mutually beneficial school- to-school relationship.  Revitalised the approach to engagement with China in relation to international students, including through strengthened relationship with education agents.
Manager International Education Division	Japan	To attend three recruitment fairs in Japan to recruit international students for the International Student program.  To meet with professors at Japanese universities from which the Department sources assistants for the Assistants to Teachers of Japanese.  To meet with the Education Services manager at the Victorian Government business office in Tokyo to build the relationship through updating on new and current initiatives	Provided briefing on the application and selection processes for the 2011 ATJ Program.  Reached an agreement to revise the current Overseas Teaching Practicum program and 10 Victorian schools were identified to participate in the March 2011 program.  500 visitors attended the three fairs, a 184 per cent increase over 2009.
Project Officer International Education Division	Vietnam	To support the Austrade Australian Schools Showcase/Recruitment Vietnam.	Strengthened the Victorian government schools' profile and education agents supporting the government sector.
<b>Office for Children and Portfolio Coordination</b>			
Manager Communications Division	China	To attend the Shanghai World Expo official delegation.	Successfully hosted a large exhibit at the Shanghai World Expo, which involved the showcasing of the Victorian Classroom of the Future. The classroom highlighted the innovative teaching and learning technologies designed and implemented in the Victorian government school system
Group Manager Communications Division	China	To attend the Shanghai World Expo official delegation.	Successfully hosted a large exhibit at the Shanghai World Expo, which involved the showcasing of the Victorian Classroom of the Future. The classroom highlighted the innovative teaching and learning technologies designed and implemented in the Victorian government school system
General Manager Data, Outcomes and Evaluation	South Korea	To attend the Global Education Leaders program.	Engaged with senior leaders in education from some of the best education systems in the world to understand how these jurisdictions lead their system change and transformation.
<b>Skills Victoria</b>			
Executive Director Policy Governance and Planning	Ireland and Northern Ireland	To attend the Wellington Forum for Senior Higher Education Policy Officials and Universities.	Participated in policy discussions around higher/tertiary education in the Wellington Forum. Established useful contacts to draw on when implementing projects based on the North Carolina Model.
<b>Regional Offices</b>			
Regional Director Eastern Metropolitan Region	China	To participate in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, Asia Education Foundation study tour of China.	Participants gained greater confidence and capacity to teach about Asia (China), heightened enthusiasm and stronger commitment about teaching languages and intercultural understanding in schools, and a commitment to progress the internationalising education agenda in schools.

Table 4 Overseas travel

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
Senior Project Officer International Education Division	China	To participate in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, Asia Education Foundation study tour of China.	Participants gained greater confidence and capacity to teach about Asia (China), heightened enthusiasm and stronger commitment about teaching languages and intercultural understanding in schools, and a commitment to progress the internationalising education agenda in schools.
Regional Network Leader Eastern Metropolitan Region	China	To participate in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, Asia Education Foundation study tour of China.	Participants gained greater confidence and capacity to teach about Asia (China), heightened enthusiasm and stronger commitment about teaching languages and intercultural understanding in schools, and a commitment to progress the internationalising education agenda in schools.
Regional Network Leader Eastern Metropolitan Region	South Korea	To attend the Global Education Leaders program.	Provided high-level dialogue about globalisation and 21st century learning skills led by educationalists Professor Yong Zhao and Charles Fidel.
Regional Director Eastern Metropolitan Region	China	To attend the Shanghai World Expo and showcase Victoria's Connections 2010 Classroom exhibit to increase Victoria's reputation in China as a provider of high-quality school education.	<p>Provided significant opportunities for future collaboration through strengthened government-to-government links, particularly through signing a Letter of Intent to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Education and engagement with the Malaysian delegation from the Prime Minister's Office.</p> <p>Strengthened relationships with international education agents and provided an opportunity to enhance guidelines for the design and implementation of overseas study experiences.</p>
Assistant Regional Director Grampians Region	United States  Canada	<p>To evaluate a leadership model, including DECV, for driving the implementation of blended learning across Victorian government schools.</p> <p>To build a common understanding of the concept of blended learning and its implications for education access and provision in Victoria, with particular attention to the needs of rural and remote students.</p>	<p>Provided the opportunity to work closely with educational leaders in Canada and the United States to better understand the extent to which learning technologies, blended learning methods and virtual learning systems will potentially support students' diverse learning needs and styles across Victoria.</p> <p>Significantly contributed to the development of a regional action plan to implement the above.</p>
Regional Director Grampians Region	Canada	<p>To evaluate a leadership model, including DECV, for driving the implementation of blended learning across Victorian government schools.</p> <p>To build a common understanding of the concept of blended learning and its implications for education access and provision in Victoria, with particular attention to the needs of rural and remote students.</p>	<p>Provided the opportunity to work closely with educational leaders in Canada and the United States to better understand the extent to which learning technologies, blended learning methods and virtual learning systems will potentially support students' diverse learning needs and styles across Victoria.</p> <p>Significantly contributed to the development of a regional action plan to implement the above.</p>
Regional Network Leader Grampians Region	Canada	<p>To evaluate a leadership model, including DECV, for driving the implementation of blended learning across Victorian government schools.</p> <p>To build a common understanding of the concept of blended learning and its implications for education access and provision in Victoria with particular attention to the needs of rural and remote students.</p>	<p>Provided the opportunity to work closely with educational leaders in Canada and the United States to better understand the extent to which learning technologies, blended learning methods and virtual learning systems will potentially support students' diverse learning needs and styles across Victoria.</p> <p>Significantly contributed to the development of a regional action plan to implement the above.</p>

Table 4 Overseas travel

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
Project Officer Grampians Region	Canada	To evaluate a leadership model, including DECV, for driving the implementation of blended learning across Victorian government schools.  To build a common understanding of the concept of blended learning and its implications for education access and provision in Victoria with particular attention to the needs of rural and remote students.	Provided the opportunity to work closely with educational leaders in Canada and the United States to better understand the extent to which learning technologies, blended learning methods and virtual learning systems will potentially support students' diverse learning needs and styles across Victoria.  Significantly contributed to the development of a regional action plan to implement the above.
Manager Gippsland Region	China	To participate in the Principals' Developing Asia Literate Schools program.	The study tour provided students, who would not otherwise have the opportunity, to have an overseas experience. The program changed students' attitudes to other cultures, their expectations for their lives and their attitude to school and their families.
Regional Network Leader Gippsland Region	Singapore	To visit schools and work with Departmental representatives and school leaders on issues relating to student differentiation.	Presented two sessions to the Curriculum Innovation Section of the Singapore Department of Education on the work the Wellington Network on Professional Learning has done with Patrick Griffin (The University of Melbourne) around student point of learning, differentiation and professional learning teams.  Visits to schools in Singapore allowed exploration of the high outcomes their schools achieve and possibilities for our schools.
Regional Network Leader Gippsland Region	China Hong Kong	To participate in the Principals Developing Asia Literate Schools program.	Established and nurtured relationships of mutual value to support the implementation of an Asian LOTE language and cultural program in the Latrobe Valley network. Supported brokering of new partnership agreements between Latrobe Valley schools and nominated schools in Taizhou and Xian. Expanded existing partnership agreements with established partner schools in Taizhou.
Acting Regional Network Leader Hume Region	Hong Kong Singapore United Kingdom	To attend the No Mind Left Behind conference – Social Brain 3.	Learnt from the world's leading experts within the field of learning difficulties, autism and ADHD. Undertook field visits to Wolverhampton City Schools, and schools in England and Scotland to investigate problem-based learning, specifically in relation to inclusive schooling and the impact of emerging technologies.
Regional Network Leader Loddon Mallee Region	China	To represent the Victorian Jurisdiction of Global Education Leaders, Cohort one and participate in the handover to Cohort two.	Presented in several forums on the progress of the Ultranet as a blended learning model and how we have influenced stakeholders in Victoria to empower schools. Participated in the handover to the next GELP cohort. Presented the outcomes of the meeting to personnel in the Loddon Mallee region, as well as to the Macedon Network.
Executive Class Loddon Mallee Region	China	To meet with personnel from the Education Bureau of Suzhou Industrial Park.	Formed a connection with the Education Bureau of Suzhou and schools within Suzhou, which resulted in 40 students visiting four schools in Bendigo for a period of six weeks in Term 2, 2011.
Regional Network Leader Loddon Mallee Region	China	To meet with personnel from the Education Bureau of Suzhou Industrial Park.	Formed a connection with the Education Bureau of Suzhou and schools within Suzhou, which resulted in 40 students visiting four schools in Bendigo for a period of six weeks in Term 2, 2011.

Table 4 Overseas travel

Title and Division	Country	Objective	Outcome
Regional Network Leader Loddon Mallee Region	China	To meet with personnel from the Education Bureau of Suzhou Industrial Park.	Formed a connection with the Education Bureau of Suzhou and schools within Suzhou, which resulted in 40 students visiting four schools in Bendigo for a period of six weeks in Term 2, 2011.
Project Manager Loddon Mallee Region	United States	To attend a National Staff Development conference (Atlanta).	Resulted in the adoption and implementation of new coaching practices in Loddon Mallee Region. Professional learning with all Loddon Mallee Regional coaches was conducted by Jim Knight in April 2011.
Education Support Northern Metropolitan Region	Malaysia	To attend and carry out the Northern Metropolitan Region's Cultural Study Experience.  To provide Koorie youth with an insight into the daily lives of Malay people, as well as the social and cultural dynamics of a foreign country.	Provided an engaging environment for personal growth in the areas of self-confidence, cultural awareness and curiosity.  Provided the opportunity for reflection on their own culture and schooling experience.  Established links with the Malay schools.
Assistant Regional Director Northern Metropolitan Region	Denmark France United Kingdom United States	To undertake a study tour to analyse strategies that could impact most on school improvement post Northern Metropolitan Region's current school improvement strategy (Powerful Learning), which is intended to be fully implemented by 2014.	Informed possible next steps for school improvement, including the role of student voice, technology, school organisation and facility design.
Regional Director Western Metropolitan Region	United States	To further partnerships with a network of low SES New York schools and analyse the longitudinal effects of the coaching model used by them. This partnership will help Western Metropolitan Region in their strategic planning for 2011.	Strengthened understanding of the potential impact of the United States numeracy model for Western Metropolitan Region secondary schools in building leadership and teacher capacity, as well as improving student learning outcomes. Observation of a high-performing secondary school with low SES students where instructional rounds were a significant factor in student outcomes directly contributed to the region's plan to implement the expansion of this model. This work was recognised when the principals leading it won the Outstanding School Leadership Team Award at the Education Excellence Awards gala held 13 May 2011.
Regional Director Barwon South West Region	United Kingdom	To contextualise a range of understandings and strategies to inform leadership directions of systemic change, outcomes and initiatives.  The study focused on research and discussion around identified priorities.	Deeper understandings were achieved in how schools identify with low literacy and/or numeracy outcomes and measure the success of the intervention strategies undertaken, and how disadvantaged schools and early years centres harness community support and engagement.  Learning centred on key strategies, including research, communication, implementation and measurement, developed by departments/authorities to address the 0–8 and Youth at Risk agendas, that have been successful. A key regional schools improvement approach has been introduced to support goal achievement and build the capacity of school leaders through a partnership approach.



# Major promotional, public relations and marketing activities

Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Department to develop community awareness of the Department and its services are available below.

**Table 5 Major promotional, PR and marketing activities**

Activity	Description	Cost
Building Confidence in Government Schools information and awareness campaign	To build greater awareness and engagement among parents and the community about changes in education, particularly school buildings and facilities, teacher excellence, co-location of early years services and pathways/opportunities for young people.	\$1,592,000
Children's Week 2010	In partnership with local governments, Victorian schools and early childhood services, to promote and host free activities during Children's Week that focus community attention on the needs and achievements of children and young people.	\$360,000
Early Years Awards 2010	To recognise the contribution that partnership approaches make to improve the health, learning, development and wellbeing of children from pregnancy through transition to school (0–8 years).	\$40,000
Education Week 2011	To promote government schools and kindergartens and the many opportunities they offer to Victorian children to thrive, learn and grow. To provide free educational activities state-wide.  The Education Week budget also provides per capita funding to regions for 35-year service recipients to be recognised.	\$207,000
Innovation Showcase 2010	To celebrate and share innovative practices in Victorian education and early childhood settings. The aim of the conference is to inspire educators through the practical innovations of their colleagues, to make connections among practitioners, to encourage peer professional learning, and to extend the use of innovative practices throughout the system. The 2010 Showcase attracted over 650 participants.	\$140,000
Learn Local Awareness strategy	To increase the awareness of Victoria's adult community education sector as a provider of quality education and training and thereby increase participation in the sector by learners.	\$589,183
Premiers' Reading Challenge advertising campaign	To promote the annual Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, a key government literacy initiative.	\$92,000
Premier's VCE Awards	To publicly recognise high-achieving VCE students from schools across the State. VCE Award ceremonies were held in July 2010 and May 2011.	\$257,000
Royal Melbourne Show	A whole-of-Victorian-Government aim, to interact with the public by showcasing departmental services at a government interactive exhibit.	\$80,000
Securing Jobs For Your Future – Skills For Victoria (Skills Reform) communications campaign	To increase active participation in the vocational education and training system by engaging the target market (adults, youth and business) in a conversation about skills training. Activities included television advertising, print advertising, print partnership, outdoor, radio, PR and media program, online, in-school information, events and ambassador program.	\$2,715,305
Sponsorship of World Skills Australia	To raise the standards of vocational education and training (VET) by encouraging apprentices, trainees and VET students to compete for the opportunity to represent Australia at the international Skill Olympics. Non-profit organisation WorldSkills Australia aims to provide opportunities to generate unpaid media coverage, rich media content for online environments, social media content, and case studies for use in promoting vocational education and training.	\$186,150

Table 5 Major promotional, PR and marketing activities

Activity	Description	Cost
Start of K–12 advertising	To promote date when students to commence the school year at Victorian government schools. Library bags for government school Prep students provide information for parents, a water bottle, art smock, etc.	\$140,000
State Schools Spectacular advertising campaign	To raise awareness of the opportunities for Victorian government school students to participate in the 2010 State School Spectacular, an initiative that provides performing arts opportunities for government school students, and to promote ticket sales to the event at Hisense Arena.	\$250,000
Victorian Education Excellence Awards	To recognise and reward those who make standout contributions in education and early childhood development	\$359,000
Victorian Schools' Garden Awards	To encourage collaborative learning experiences and school pride. The awards complement sustainable initiatives, community partnerships, and health-related projects such as 'Go For Your Life' kitchen gardens.	\$52,000
2010 Victorian Adult Community Education Awards	To showcase the achievements of ACE learners, practitioners and organisations.	\$80,000
Victorian Training Awards 2010	To reward outstanding achievement, innovation, and the valuable contribution of apprentices, trainees, students, teachers, employers and training providers.	\$320,000
2010 Community Learning Partnership Showcase	To showcase the achievements of Community Learning Partnership (CLP) projects and to raise the profile of CLPs among <i>Learn Local</i> organisations and potential partners in local and state government, business, industry and community.	\$47,000

## Occupational health and safety

It is considered that the material included in the 2010–11 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Annual Report comprehensively covers the *Financial Management Act 1994* reporting requirements in relation to occupational health and safety assessments and measures and safety of employees.

## Industrial relations

It is considered that the material included in the 2010–11 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Annual Report comprehensively covers the *Financial Management Act 1994* reporting requirements in relation to industrial relations.

No time was lost to industrial action in 2010–11.

## Major committees

A list of major committees sponsored by the Department, the purposes of each and achievements for the 2010–11 financial year are available below.

Table 6 Major committees		
Committee	Purpose	Major achievements in 2010–11
Accredited Purchasing Unit	To ensure compliance with Government purchasing policy and guidelines in respect to contractor engagements for the acquisition of goods or services in excess of \$100,000 <sup>1</sup> and to formulate Departmental purchasing policies, practices and guidelines.	<p>Considered procurement processes relating to proposed contracts in excess of \$344.5 million.</p> <p>Ensured contract compliance with Government purchasing policy.</p> <p>Provided Annual Supply Report to the Victorian Government Purchasing Board.</p>
Bendigo Re-generation Steering Committee	To oversee the successful implementation of the Bendigo Education Plan, a strategy aimed at regenerating secondary education in Bendigo.	<p>Oversaw the continued construction of four new secondary colleges – Eaglehawk Secondary College, Crusoe 7–10 Secondary College, Weeroona College and Bendigo South East College.</p> <p>Given that all four schools are now open and operational the Committee held its final meeting in February 2011. Construction will continue to complete all projects.</p>
Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Taskforce	A cross-sectoral committee to oversee and coordinate guidance and advice on key aspects of curriculum, assessment and reporting policy to support an integrated approach to the learning and development of children and young people in Victoria.	<p>Provided input and guidance on a range of strategic projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Curriculum Consultation</li> <li>• literacy assessment tool development</li> <li>• health and physical education assessment tools and sample survey</li> <li>• English Online Interview</li> <li>• 0–18 years Integrated Assessment strategy for Victoria</li> <li>• Curriculum Planning project.</li> </ul>
Research and Evaluation Committee	<p>To ensure that the best evidence is available to understand the factors that influence and measure progress towards improving Departmental outcomes.</p> <p>On behalf of the Department, the Committee is responsible for overseeing the partnership approach to research and evaluation activity.</p>	<p>Reported directly to the Portfolio Strategy Board regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development, establishment and governance of the Research and Evaluation Partnerships</li> <li>• establishment of priorities for research and evaluation activities</li> <li>• funding of key research and evaluation activity from the Department's Research Fund.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hosted knowledge-sharing activities across the Department and with external stakeholders</li> <li>• communicated findings to increase the connections between research, policy and practice</li> <li>• developed resources to build the capacity of Departmental staff to undertake and engage in research and evaluation activities</li> <li>• reviewed governance arrangements for conducting research in schools and early childhood settings and using Department-owned data.</li> </ul>
DEECD Strategic Think Tank	To bring together a core group of independent thinkers from across the education and early childhood development sectors to explore contemporary ideas and research, and to inform the next wave of reform thinking.	Held two meetings that considered long-term themes and strategic opportunities in education and the emerging state context of educational reform, and international best practice.

1. Except expenditure which is subject to the requirements of the Project Development and Construction Management Act 1994.

Table 6 Major committees

Committee	Purpose	Major achievements in 2010–11
Departmental Leadership Team (DLT)	To drive the Department's overall strategy and operational performance, and championing organisational development and governance with responsibility for delivering strategic priorities and facilitation of cross-office collaboration.	<p>Focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparing for incoming government</li> <li>• developing policy implementation plans for government commitments</li> <li>• leading work on the organisational development strategy</li> <li>• successfully implementing the Ultranet</li> <li>• continued commitment to enhancing workforce capacity</li> <li>• establishing the Youth Partnerships Secretariat</li> <li>• promoting best practice in literacy and numeracy</li> <li>• addressing health and disability issues</li> <li>• Victoria's leadership in the development of National Partnerships</li> </ul>
Departmental Management Committee (DMC)	To oversee management of the Department's human, financial and information resources, and monitor the implementation of key Departmental priorities.	<p>Held 12 during 2010–11 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor progress in implementing the Department's Annual Plan</li> <li>• monitor strategic risk</li> <li>• approve the Departmental budget for 2010–11</li> <li>• monitor implementation of the Department's Organisational Development strategy</li> <li>• receive reports on occupational health and safety</li> <li>• monitor Departmental resources</li> <li>• monitor risk and the implementation of audit recommendations</li> <li>• provide guidance to support implementation of an Emergency Management Framework for the Department.</li> </ul>
Early Childhood Development Advisory Group	<p>To advise OCPC and the Department on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria's policy direction for children aged 0–8 and their families</li> <li>• the implementation of the Government's reform agenda for early childhood</li> <li>• the development of new and improved services for children and their families</li> <li>• specific early childhood issues as required</li> <li>• creating a Victoria in which every young Victorian thrives, learns and grows to enjoy prosperous lives and be effective members of their community.</li> </ul>	<p>Held four ECD Advisory Group meetings to provide effective input and advice into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development of the National Quality Agenda</li> <li>• current early childhood development policy and projects</li> <li>• governance structure and process to implement the 2010 election commitments</li> <li>• the framework for the Assessment and Reporting of Children's Learning 0–5 Years.</li> </ul>
Infrastructure Investment Advisory Committee	<p>To oversee the development of an infrastructure investment plan as well as the delivery of the four-year asset program announced in 2006.</p> <p>To facilitate the joint use of facilities between schools and communities and ensure that key stakeholders are engaged.</p>	Oversaw the completion of the former Government's 2006 Victorian Schools Plan and the development of strategies to deliver the Department's capital program in the future.
Inter Departmental Committee on Outcomes for Children and Young People	To support the work of the Children's Services Coordination Board through the coordination of interdepartmental planning.	Held six meetings were in 2010–11 to provide effective coordination support to the Children's Services Coordination Board around the monitoring of child outcomes and linking whole-of-government reform efforts to improve child outcomes.

Table 6 Major committees

Committee	Purpose	Major achievements in 2010–11
Ministerial Advisory Committee (Students with Disabilities and Additional Learning Needs)	To regularly advise on the forward agenda of the Program for Students with Disabilities.	<p>Provided advice on the forward agenda of the Program for Students with Disabilities, particularly in relation to the Abilities Based Learning and Education Support program.</p> <p>Held one meeting in August 2010 when it was decided that the committee would cease given uncertainty around the upcoming election.</p>
Ministerial Advisory Council for a Multilingual and Multicultural Victoria	To provide high-level strategic advice on the implementation of education-related policies in the Government's Plan for Multicultural Victoria.	<p>The Council was established on 28 March 2011. Given the long-term implementation timeline of the Government's languages education policy commitments, Council recommended the following strategic initiatives be implemented to raise the profile of languages in schools and the community, and to establish a strong foundation for long-term reform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• research successful languages programs in high-performing international jurisdictions</li> <li>• pilot Innovative Languages Provision in Clusters (ILPiC) initiatives to improve the provision, quality and continuity of languages programs within clusters of schools</li> <li>• conduct a Content and Language Integrated Learning teacher training course for primary languages teachers.</li> </ul>
Ministerial Advisory Council for Science and Mathematics Education	To provide high-level strategic advice on mathematics and science education, drawing on expertise from the fields of industry, mathematics, science, education and the media.	Supported the development of the implementation and evaluation strategy for the Energising Science and Mathematics Education in Victoria strategy.
Organisational Development Project Board (DMC Subcommittee)	<p>To sponsor and support the implementation of the Organisational Development Framework.</p> <p>To provide regular reports to DMC on the progress of implementing the Department's Organisational Development Framework.</p>	<p>Evidence building for capability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capability report on VPS 5 cohort</li> <li>• Leadership 360 program for 354 VPS6 staff.</li> </ul> <p>Specific projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• embedding Departmental CORE Values</li> <li>• reviewing and evaluating coaching and mentoring within the Department</li> <li>• Capability Assessment and Measurement project to align the Department with SSA capabilities and develop consistent position descriptions and identification of development needs</li> </ul> <p>Gave collaboration and support to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report on professional development undertaken within the Department</li> <li>• establishment of exit interview process</li> <li>• Continuous Improvement and Innovation Group.</li> </ul>
Portfolio Audit Committee	To oversee governance and provide advice on audit, risk management and business assurance activities.	Oversaw the delivery of the portfolio audit plan and attested to the accuracy of the Department's financial accounts.
Portfolio Strategy Board (PSB)	To monitor the Department's progress against the corporate plan and assesses the success of portfolio strategies. The PSB also oversees the Department's research agenda and identifies areas for long-term policy and strategy work.	<p>Met quarterly to monitor Department performance against outcomes, progress measures and targets.</p> <p>Approved the establishment of partnerships with external research and evaluation organisations.</p> <p>Approved research proposals and considered outcomes and findings of research reports.</p>

Table 6 Major committees

Committee	Purpose	Major achievements in 2010–11
Principals Reference Group	To provide feedback to the Department's election commitment taskforces on the implementation of the Government's election commitments.	Participated in 10 consultation forums, including a 'virtual forum' conducted via the Ultranet.  The group has held extensive discussions and provided effective feedback on the implementation of the Government's election commitments.
Resources Committee	To coordinate, monitor and review financial performance and resource management across the Department.  To provide advice to DMC on financial and resource management.	Coordinated the development of the Department budget.  Monitored the Monthly Resources Report and report-back for strategic initiatives.  Managed the allocation of Departmental contingency funds.
Secretaries Committee for Education and Training (SCE&T)	To identify how the roles of the Department, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD) and Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) fit into the government's overarching education and training policy framework, and to consider policy issues where the responsibilities of each department overlap.	Oversaw the work of the Joint DEECD/DIIRD Unit on Youth Transitions, the governance arrangements and implementation of the Victorian Student Number and the development of the previous Government's Tertiary Education Plan.
Stakeholder Consultation Group	To provide feedback to the Department's election commitment taskforces on the implementation of the Government's election commitments.	Participated in 10 consultation forums, including a 'virtual forum' conducted via the Ultranet.  The group has held extensive discussions and provided effective feedback on the implementation of the Government's election commitments.
Teach for Australia Implementation Strategy Steering Committee	To bring together representatives from the Department, Teach for Australia, Victorian Institute for Teaching, University of Melbourne and DEEWR to oversee the implementation of the Teach for Australia initiative in Victorian government schools.	Successfully collaborated with the University of Melbourne, Teach for Australia, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, and the Department for the delivery of Cohort 1 and 2 by June 2011.  Minister Hall has approved the delivery of Cohort 3 for 2012.
Teacher Supply and Demand Reference Group	To coordinate the collection of teacher supply and demand data in Victoria, provide advice on research projects and publish an annual report.	Published the <i>2009 Teacher Supply and Demand Report</i> .