

Official Statement No. 25, 14 November 2025

School Policy and Funding Advisory Council

Council update

Council acknowledged the significant cross-sectoral collaboration that has taken place since the meeting of 4 July 2025.

Treaty and First Nations Self-Determination in Education

Council noted an update on Victoria's Treaty process, including the 'Immediate Statewide Treaty Reform' - 'Inclusion of truth-telling in the Victorian Curriculum' in the first Negotiated Statewide Treaty Agreement. It noted the update on the education findings and recommendations of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, and the work underway to prioritise First Nations self-determination in education.

Members heard that truth-telling in the Victorian curriculum and professional learning resources will be available for non-government schools, and that the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 is being reviewed to strengthen First Nations recognition and embed the principles of self-determination within the Act. The importance of recruiting Indigenous educators to support these reforms was noted.

Cross-sectoral NAPLAN analysis

Council discussed the 2025 cross-sectoral National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results. Members heard that substantially more Victorian students achieved at the highest level compared to previous levels. However, disadvantaged and First Nations students continue to perform behind their peers across all sectors, and small but persistent gender gaps exist with female students outperforming in Reading and Writing, and male students outperforming in Numeracy.

Girls' numeracy performance in single-sex schools

Council discussed girls' numeracy performance in single sex independent and Catholic schools based on an analysis of 2025 NAPLAN results.

Members noted that the small sample size limits the inferences that can be made and agreed to include the numeracy results of single sex government schools in future analysis to develop further insights.

2026-2029 NGS Funding Agreements update

Council heard an update on the 2026-2029 Funding Agreements negotiated with the VCEA and ISV on behalf of non-government schools and system authorities:

- 2026-2029 Memorandum of Understanding

- 2026-2029 Non-Government Schools Funding Agreement
- 2026-2029 Targeted Programs Funding Agreement.

Commonwealth-State update

Council was provided with an update on Commonwealth-State matters including the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (2025–2034) and outcomes from the Education Ministers Meeting of 17 October 2025.

Regulation and Legislation update

Council noted amendments to the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 that increases the regulatory powers of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority commenced on 1 October 2025.

Members heard that Bills have been introduced in the Victorian Parliament to implement recommendations of the Rapid Child Safety Review and to strengthen the regulatory framework for the Early Childhood Education and Care system.

About

Established in 2015, the Council provides advice to the Minister for Education on regulatory, policy and funding issues that affect public and non-government schools.

Council meets 3 times each year and an Official Statement is shared after each meeting. The department provides secretariat support to the Council. Previous statements can be found online on the department's website: <https://www.vic.gov.au/school-policy-and-funding-advisory-council>

Membership

Tony Bates	Professor Elizabeth Labone	Rachel Holthouse	Chris Wardlaw	David Howes
Secretary	Chief Executive Officer	Chief Executive	Independent Member	Deputy Secretary
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