

# School Policy and Funding Advisory Council

Official statement No. 17: March 2023

## Self-Determination in Education Reform

Council discussed the Aboriginal Self-Determination in Education Reforms.

A conceptual framework has been developed through dialogue with Koorie communities, young people, and schools to build a shared understanding of what self-determination is, and what it means to Koorie people in education.

Council acknowledged the importance of a universal approach to achieving improved wellbeing and learning outcomes for Koorie students through self-determination.

## Teacher Workforce Supply Initiatives (National)

Council discussed key outcomes from the Education Ministers Meeting (EMM) to address teaching workforce supply. Sectors committed to progressing the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan (NTWAP) approved by Education Ministers on 16 December 2022.

Council noted key actions underway as part of the NTWAP including the establishment of a national campaign to raise the value of teaching and promote teaching as a career, and research reviewing teaching qualifications.

## NAPLAN Cross-sector Data

Analysis of the 2022 NAPLAN cross-sector data showed shared challenges associated with reading and numeracy outcomes, achievement gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students, and female and male students.

Council noted that moving the NAPLAN testing period from May to March, and the successful transition to NAPLAN online, will ensure that schools and parents receive more robust information about their students' performance earlier in the school year.

Resources to support schools and families to better understand student achievement through the NAPLAN proficiency standards are in development.

## Artificial Intelligence

Council discussed policy settings associated with ChatGPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) and other generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) products.

Council endorsed the establishment of a cross-sector working group and Community of Practice in Term 2 to explore the implications of generative AI tools on teaching and learning practices in all Victorian schools.

## Regulation and Legislation Update

Council noted, and acknowledged cross-sector collaboration in developing, the following 2 key pieces of legislation.

1. Child Wellbeing and Safety (Child Safe Standards Compliance and Enforcement) Amendment Act 2021

On 1 January 2023, the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) was established as the integrated sector regulator for schools and other education and training entities to monitor and enforce compliance of the Child Safe Standards.

2. Education Legislation Amendment (Adult and Community Education and Other Matters) Act 2022

Guidelines to support amendments to the Victorian Student Number (VSN) have been drafted with sector consultation continuing. The VSN guidelines establish an operational framework to ensure that the access, use and disclosure of information is adequately protected.

## Commonwealth-State Update

Council noted an update on the Productivity Commission's review of the National School Reform Agreement (NSRA) and that Education Ministers endorsed the Terms of Reference for the review on 27 February 2023.

The objective of the NSRA is that Australian schooling provides a high quality and equitable education for all students. The NSRA sets out long-term national outcomes and targets to track progress. The NSRA review panel's recommendations are to be provided to Education Ministers by 31 October 2023. The next NSRA is due to take effect in 2025.

Council noted that Early Childhood and Education Ministers agreed on a consultation approach for a draft national Early Childhood Education and Care Vision that will support children's education and development outcomes and parents' workforce participation. The final vision will be presented to National Cabinet in the middle of 2023.

Council noted that Ministers commissioned the Australian Education Research Organisation's (AERO) to investigate the causes of declining attendance and provide advice on evidence-based approaches that support attendance.

## About

Established in 2015, the School Policy and Funding Advisory Council (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 Official Statements are 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>

## March 2023 meeting

The following appointed members and delegates attended the March meeting:

**Jenny Atta**, Secretary, Department of Education (DE) (Chair)

**Michelle Green**, Chief Executive, Independent Schools Victoria (ISV)

**Jim Miles**, Executive Director, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV)

**Dr David Howes**, Deputy Secretary, Schools, and Regional Services, DE (representing government schools)

**Professor Kwong Lee Dow**, Independent Member (representing the interests of students in all Victorian schools)

**Dr Mary Oski**, Director, Learning and Regional Services, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

**Fiona Tracey**, Manager, Policy and Governmental Relations, ISV

Apologies:

**Dr Edward Simons**, Acting Executive Director, MACS

**Nigel Bartlett**, Manager, Funding and Accountability, ISV

## Membership

Ms Jenny Atta  
(Chair)  
Secretary  
Department of  
Education

Mr Jim Miles  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
Commission of  
Victoria

Ms Michelle  
Green  
Chief Executive  
Independent  
Schools Victoria

Prof. Kwong Lee  
Dow  
Independent  
Member  
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Dr David Howes  
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