
SCHOOL POLICY & FUNDING ADVISORY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL STATEMENT No. 4: OCTOBER 2018

ABOUT

Welcome to the fourth Official Statement of the School Policy and Funding Advisory Council (Council).

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

- Gill Callister, Secretary, Department of Education & Training (Chair)
- Stephen Elder, Executive Director, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV)
- Michelle Green, Chief Executive, Independent Schools Victoria (ISV)
- Katy Haire, Deputy Secretary – Early Childhood & School Education Group, Department of Education & Training (DET)
- Professor Kwong Lee Dow, Independent Member, representing the views of students in all Victorian schools.

Council meets at least three times each year and Official Statements will be shared with the school community after each meeting. The Department provides secretariat support to the Council.

Previous statements can be found online on the Department's website: www.education.vic.gov.au/spfac.aspx

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Council and its subcommittees have continued to provide advice to the Minister, and more broadly, valuable input into key education issues that affect Victorian schools.

The highlights of 2018 have been the positive outcomes as a result of the collaboration occurring across the school sectors, on:

- The release of '*Improving Together: A cross-sector collaboration toolkit for principals*', a resource that assists principals to identify when a cross-sectoral collaboration may be useful, and details practical steps on how to establish a partnership with a school from another sector.
 - Continued work to address issues of sexism and family violence in schools, through agreement to an action plan to be implemented across the participating schools in all three sectors.
 - Supporting the aspirations and achievement of Koorie students, including implementation of the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy*.
 - Ongoing and regular cross-sectoral collaboration on inclusive education was established to further support and meet the needs of students with disabilities and collectively respond to this shared priority area.
 - Cross-sectoral professional development workshops offered to school principals and leaders.
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

"The Council has had another productive year that builds on the work of the last three years since it was formally established in 2015.

The Council's priorities this year included an ambitious range of issues and initiatives, and it has been my privilege to be a part of the great collaboration taking place across both public and non-government schools.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers across the school sectors for your continued efforts in providing a high quality education to all Victorian young people."

Gill Callister
Secretary of the Department of Education and Training
2015 - 2018

Contact the Department if you need this information in an accessible format; please telephone on 03 8683 2111, or email ngs.support@edumail.vic.gov.au

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NAPLAN STATEWIDE RESULTS

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 that measures literacy and numeracy skills, focusing on the skills that every student needs to succeed in their future work and study. Recent preliminary NAPLAN 2018 results for Victorian schools show the positive impact of efforts in schools across Victoria, with improvements in more domains and more year levels than in previous years. The promising results reflect the powerful improvements that can be achieved when educational leaders, teachers, parents and the community work together, with a focus on improving student results and outcomes.

Results show that Victorian students have been steadily achieving higher NAPLAN results since 2015. NAPLAN results in 2018 show Victorian students are among the nation's top performers. Key achievements include:

- Year 3 students achieved the highest scores for reading and writing. Numeracy results have increased from 409.7 in 2015 to 418.4 in 2018.
- Year 5 students achieved top scores for numeracy, writing and grammar. Reading results have increased from an average score of 508.3 in 2015 to 519.9 in 2018.
- Year 7 students were the first or second best performers in four out of five testing areas.
- More Year 9 students are achieving at the highest levels in numeracy. 23.8 per cent of students in top two bands rose to 27.2 per cent this year.

All levels of the education system can be proud of these results, which are indicative of the hard work being undertaken in schools across Victoria to improve student results. Focused effort, and the effort of teachers in classrooms to enhance practice, has yielded impressive results in student learning.

Further information regarding Victoria's results can be found in the NAPLAN highlights 2018 document at: www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/news/naplan-highlights-2018.pdf

CHILD INFORMATION SHARING & MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT REFORMS

The Victorian Government is rolling out the Child Information Sharing (CIS) Scheme, the Family Violence Information Sharing (FVIS) Scheme and the Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Risk Management (MARAM) Framework through a coordinated and phased approach.

These reforms will promote a more integrated service system that better responds to the needs of children and families. They will remove barriers to information sharing to allow professionals to work together across the service system to make more informed decisions, better responding to the needs of children and families including those experiencing family violence.

The Department, ISV and CECV will work together to begin to introduce the CIS, FVIS and MARAM reforms to their school sectors and to communicate what will be expected from schools through 2019 and from 2020.

Further information and resources on the reforms, including the CIS Ministerial Guidelines, FVIS Ministerial Guidelines and MARAM policy document can also be found online at the following website: www.vic.gov.au/infosharing.

MEMBERSHIP AS AT OCTOBER 2018

Ms Gill Callister (Chair) Secretary Department of Education and Training	Mr Stephen Elder Executive Director Catholic Education Commission of Victoria	Ms Michelle Green Chief Executive Independent Schools Victoria	Ms Katy Haire Deputy Secretary Department of Education and Training	Prof. Kwong Lee Dow Independent Member University of Melbourne
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Council Secretariat

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