

Official Statement No. 23, 3 April 2025

School Policy and Funding Advisory Council

Council Update

Council acknowledged the former Secretary of the Department of Education, Jenny Atta, for her leadership of the Council and noted her new role as Secretary of the Department of Health.

Council acknowledged the significant cross-sectoral collaboration underway this year, particularly in relation to non-government engagement with Respectful Relationships.

Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0 – Lesson Plans

Council noted the update to the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0 (VTLM 2.0) and the Victorian Lesson Plans. The VTLM 2.0 will be implemented in all Victorian Government schools by 2028, and Victorian Lesson Plans are available for use in all Victorian schools. Members discussed opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and engagement in relation to school improvement.

Early Secondary outcomes

Council noted work underway on early secondary outcomes with the department recently engaging with school leaders about drivers of outcomes in early secondary school. This aligns with the Education State priority of lifting secondary student engagement and achievement. Council agreed to collaborate to improve early secondary outcomes in the Victorian education system.

Initiatives to support low and high-achieving students

Council noted the existing cross-sectoral collaboration regarding programs and initiatives for students needing additional support and for high-ability students. Members discussed opportunities for further collaboration in relation to high-ability students.

Cross-sector approach to developing the capability of teachers and leaders

Council noted the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership's focus on a cross-sector approach to delivering high-quality, evidence-informed professional learning to Victorian teachers and school leaders, to deliver excellence in teaching and school leadership and to expand, support and recognise the Victorian school workforce across the sectors.

Commonwealth-State update

Council was provided with an update on Commonwealth-State matters.

Regulation and Legislation update

Council noted amendments to education-related legislation that have implications for schools, including the Education and Training Reform Amendment Bill 2024 that was passed by the Victorian Parliament in February 2025.

2025 Workplan and subcommittees

Council endorsed the 2025 Council workplan that is structured to align with the Education State priorities.

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 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>

Membership

Tony Bates Acting Secretary Department of Education (Chair)	Professor Elizabeth Labone Chief Executive Officer Victorian Catholic Education Authority	Rachel Holthouse Chief Executive Independent Schools Victoria	Chris Wardlaw Independent Member	Chris Thompson Acting Deputy Secretary Schools and Regional Services Department of Education
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Contact the Council Secretariat if you need this information in an accessible format.