

## SCHOOL POLICY AND FUNDING ADVISORY COUNCIL OFFICIAL STATEMENT NO.16: NOVEMBER 2022

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### CHALLENGES

Council discussed the impact of recent floods on Victorian school communities, with the Chair acknowledging the extraordinary collaboration across sectors to support students, families, and staff.

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### SELF-DETERMINATION IN EDUCATION REFORM

Council was provided with an update on the Aboriginal Self-Determination in Education consultation that brought together 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. The campfire conversations held during 2022 provided opportunities for storytelling and deep listening and acknowledged indigenous voice as central to decision-making about Koorie learners' educational journey.

Council acknowledged the power of the student cohort who participated in the campfire conversations, citing the relationships formed as a catalyst for improved understanding and knowledge of educational outcomes for Aboriginal students.

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### TEACHER WORKFORCE SUPPLY INITIATIVES (NATIONAL)

Council noted that the draft National Teacher Workforce Action Plan (the Plan) had been developed to address teacher shortages by helping to attract and retain more people in the teaching profession. The Plan includes 28 actions across six priority areas: elevating the profession; improving teacher supply; strengthening initial teacher education; maximising the time to teach; better understanding future teacher workforce needs; and better career pathways to support and retain teachers in the profession.

The Plan was developed by a Working Group led by the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Education with senior officials from state and territory governments and representatives from unions and education peak bodies. Feedback on the Plan will inform further discussion by Education Ministers in December.

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### VICTORIAN ACADEMY OF TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP

The Academy provided its biannual update to Council noting that there has been strong stakeholder support and engagement in the Teaching Excellence Program that delivers professional learning for highly skilled teachers in Victorian government, Catholic and Independent schools.

The Academy's regional centres ensure rural and regional teachers can access high-quality professional development. The Geelong and Bendigo regional centres are scheduled to open by the end of 2022, with a further five opening in 2023.

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### REGULATION AND LEGISLATION UPDATE

Council noted sector collaboration and input as being integral to the development of guidance across three key pieces of legislation, including:

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

From 1 January 2023, the VRQA will be 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) are being drafted to establish an operational framework and adequate protections are in place regarding access, use and disclosure of information.

3. *Justice Legislation Amendment (Sexual Offences and Other Matters) Act 2022*

The affirmative consent reforms provide better protections for victim-survivors of sexual offences. Amendments include stronger laws to target image-based sexual abuse. Support for all schools to address the changes in legislation continues

with a suite of resources and guidance materials developed through cross-sector collaboration.

### COMMONWEALTH-STATE UPDATE

An update on the Productivity Commission's review of the National School Reform Agreement (NSRA) Bilateral Agreement noted that the final report is expected to be published on 31 December 2022. Formal negotiations for the next school funding agreement are not expected to commence with the Commonwealth until early 2023. The department will work closely with both non-government sectors on national reform policies and actions that may impact them, including the bilateral agreement.

All sectors continue to work with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to support the implementation of NAPLAN in Term 1 of 2023.

### 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 three 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>

### NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING

The November meeting was attended by the following appointed members and delegates:

**Dr David Howes**, Acting Secretary, Department of Education and Training (Chair)

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

**Tony Bates**, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education and Training (representing the department)

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

**Dr Edward Simons**, Acting Executive Director, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

**Dr Mary Oski**, Director, Learning and Regional Services, MACS

**Nigel Bartlett**, Manager, Funding and Accountability, Independent Schools Victoria (ISV)

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

Apologies:

**Jenny Atta**, Secretary, DET

**Michelle Green**, Chief Executive, ISV

### MEMBERSHIP

<b>Ms Jenny Atta</b> (Chair) Secretary Department of Education and Training	<b>Mr Jim Miles</b> Executive Director Catholic Education Commission of Victoria	<b>Ms Michelle Green</b> Chief Executive Independent Schools Victoria	<b>Prof. Kwong Lee Dow</b> Independent Member University of Melbourne	<b>Dr David Howes</b> Deputy Secretary Department of Education and Training
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### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Catholic Education Commission of Victoria	<a href="mailto:media@cecv.catholic.edu.au">media@cecv.catholic.edu.au</a>	(03) 9267 0228
Independent Schools Victoria	<a href="mailto:enquiries@is.vic.edu.au">enquiries@is.vic.edu.au</a>	(03) 9825 7200
Department of Education and Training	<a href="mailto:media.unit@education.vic.gov.au">media.unit@education.vic.gov.au</a>	(03) 8688 7776

### COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

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