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## SCHOOL POLICY AND FUNDING ADVISORY COUNCIL

### OFFICIAL STATEMENT NO.14: MARCH 2022

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#### VICTORIAN ACADEMY OF TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP

Council discussed the 9 March 2022 launch of the Teaching Excellence Program, recognising strong cross-sector engagement in the establishment of the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership (the Academy).

A new reporting approach was agreed to by Council, which will see the Academy, in its newly acquired status as Independent Statutory Authority, report to Council biannually.

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#### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SCHOOLS

Council acknowledged the ongoing collaboration across sectors to effectively respond to COVID-19 and the efforts of school principals, and their staff, throughout this period of change and uncertainty.

Council discussed a comprehensive suite of COVIDSafe measures in place to support student and staff wellbeing, promote health and safety and minimise disruption to learning in school communities. Council recognised the current challenges in relation to the schools' sector workforce.

Council applauded the work schools are undertaking to engage parents in discussions around vaccination for the 5–11-year-old cohort. The Department of Education and Training (the department), in partnership with the Department of Health, will continue to support this work by providing key communication resources and advice to schools.

Regular discussions between the sectors and the department continue to provide a forum for open engagement and discussion on matters including boarding facilities and camps, inter-jurisdictional travel, school operations and the implementation of regulations.

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#### BETRAYAL OF TRUST – INSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The department has established a dedicated Working Group to develop a risk assessment framework to determine Victorian government funding eligibility for schools who are unable to obtain appropriate insurance against child abuse. This requirement is reflected in the 2022 Funding Memorandum of Understanding between the department and non-government schools.

Both non-government school sectors offered strong support for this work, which will assess financial and regulatory risk. The department will continue to engage with both sectors during the framework's design phase.

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#### REGULATORY POLICY UPDATE

Council noted that the new *Child Safe Standards Ministerial Order 1359* will commence on 1 July 2022, giving schools and relevant organisations time to plan, prepare and comply.

Changes have been made to support greater national consistency, reflecting the National Principles for a Child Safe Organisation developed following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Council noted that Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) will become the sole regulator of the Child Safe Standards from January 2023.

#### *Education and Training Reform Amendment (Senior Secondary Pathways Reforms and Other Matters) Act 2021*

Council noted that Victoria is moving to a new integrated senior secondary certificate that will bring together the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) to give students

greater choice and flexibility to pursue their strengths and interests and develop the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, work, and life.

In 2023, Intermediate and Senior VCAL will be replaced by a new two-year vocational major within the VCE and a new two-year foundation pathways certificate will replace Foundation VCAL.

From 2025, a fully integrated senior secondary certificate will be introduced across all Victorian schools and senior secondary providers, offering students genuine and identifiable vocational pathways. Under an integrated single certificate, all students will be able to build a program relevant to their specific strengths, interests and future aspirations.

### 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 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: [School Policy and Funding Advisory Council | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](http://www.vic.gov.au).

### MARCH 2022 MEETING

The March meeting was attended by the following appointed members:

**Jenny Atta**, Secretary, Department of Education and Training (the Department) (Chair and representative for the Department)

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

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

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

**Dr David Howes**, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education and Training (representing the government school sector).

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

### COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

Department of Education and Training	<a href="mailto:sp.fac@education.vic.gov.au">sp.fac@education.vic.gov.au</a>	(03) 7008 8361
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