
SCHOOL POLICY & FUNDING ADVISORY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL STATEMENT No. 5: MAY 2019

ABOUT

Welcome to the fifth 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. The April meeting was attended by the following appointed members or their delegate:

- Katy Haire, Deputy Secretary, School Education Programs and Support, Department of Education and Training (Acting Chair, and representative for DET)
- Jim Miles, Acting Executive Director, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV)
- Nigel Bartlett, Manager, Funding and Accountability, Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) for Michelle Green, Chief Executive
- 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 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: www.education.vic.gov.au/spfac.aspx

2019 COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Council reaffirmed its continued focus on system-wide efforts in working towards the Education State targets of: Learning for life; Happy, healthy and resilient kids; Breaking the link; Pride and confidence in our schools.

This collective effort is supported by the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the representatives of the three school sectors. Through the Council's engagement with the Minister (Part 2.7 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (ETRA)*, the priorities for the work program include:

Education Quality

- Identify opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships to support improved student outcomes.
- Improve the quality and supply of the whole-of-state school workforce including consideration of attraction, training, registration, supply and demand and workforce data for schools.
- Identify strategic priorities to improve system-level outcomes as monitored against the Education State school targets.

Funding and Financial Accountability

- Commonwealth-State government issues, including funding arrangements and the implementation of the National School Reform Agreement, any bilateral school reform agreement, Victorian transition to NAPLAN Online, and the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

Access and Inclusion

- Identify opportunities and challenges to fostering greater social cohesion in schools through student agency.
- Inclusive education reforms to meet the objectives of equity and excellence for all schools to be inclusive for students with disabilities and additional needs.

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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SOCIAL COHESION

Victorian Government and the Council values and celebrates diversity, and that our schools are enriched as a result of our multicultural community.

Following the tragic events in Christchurch, New Zealand on 15 March 2019, the Council recognised the wide-reaching impacts, including for our Muslim students in Victorian schools, who may have extended family members and friends connected to this event.

Council also endorsed the establishment of a revised student-led working group focusing on social cohesion, following the success of the student voice model in the School Leaders for Gender Equality and Respect Working Group. The focus of the group will be to work towards addressing racism and religious intolerance in Victorian schools.

Further information will be circulated in due course for any interested schools and students, or alternatively please contact the Council Secretariat.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND WORKFORCE

To investigate and address the demographic challenges faced by school leadership, a Council-sponsored workshop to bring together the three school professional learning centres is planned.

The Bastow Institute for government schools, the Catholic Leadership Centre, and ISV's Development Centre will participate in a workshop to support the continued collaboration across the school sectors. Participants will investigate the quality and supply of the whole-of-state school workforce, identify ways to increase the diversity of principals in schools*, and focus on the shared challenges experienced by all sectors.

* The average age of a principal in government schools in 2018 was 53.2 years compared to 51.9 in 2008. Similar trends were noted in the Catholic and independent school sectors.

Ms Katy Haire (Acting Chair)
Deputy Secretary
Department of Education and
Training

Mr Jim Miles
Acting Executive Director
Catholic Education Commission
of Victoria

Ms Michelle Green
Chief Executive
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