



VPA Position Paper

Student Free Days

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) is concerned with DEECD's decision to allocate the majority of student free days at the beginning of the school year and the scheduling of a reporting day at a time when primary schools would be preparing written reports for parents. The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

Purpose

This position is designed to support the work of PCOs in staff development and reporting to parents.

Background to the VPA Position

- Schools have not been given any flexibility in preparing for professional learning opportunities throughout the year. PCO awareness of staff curriculum needs more likely to be evaluated by mid Term 1
- Teaching staff not offered student reporting time at the appropriate time leading to difficult negotiations at school level.

VPA Position

- VPA advocates for the four (4) student free days per calendar year are allocated to the first day of each term, with term 3 as a 'Reporting to Parents' day.

The VPA *Student Free Days* position paper was initiated by VPA Council Members March 2009. Further work on this document was undertaken by VPA Board, President and Executive Officer.