



VPA Position Paper

Regional Network Leader

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) acknowledges the key role which is being developed by regional network leaders (RNLs). The VPA's position is that one of the key elements of this role must be to create a culture of collaboration and cooperation within each network of schools.

Background

School networks are now well established and support principal class officers in their leadership of schools, including school improvement, within a self-management framework. The VPA notes that following the appointment of RNLs, school network activity is more directed and focussed on whole of network outcomes.

VPA Position

The VPA commends the development of principal class officers (PCOs) in ways which will support continuous improvement in their schools and in the Victorian education system. The Minister for Education, Hon. Bronwyn Pike has stated: *We are fortunate to have a world class education system with a strong and vibrant government school system at its core.* This is a positive acknowledgment of our system and the work of PCOs in improving student learning.

The VPA believes that the RNL role has potential to assist PCOs across networks to create sustained and viable strategies to advance student learning. In support of the initiative to strengthen networks, the VPA commends the provision of additional targeted resources for schools.

In pursuing stronger networks, the VPA supports the notion of partnerships between RNLs and network PCOs. This can be achieved by working with network principal class members to strengthen leadership capacity, and to improve the quality of teacher practice, with a particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy.

The VPA also supports the facilitation of a collegiate element within network business as the VPA maintains an ongoing interest in the balanced professional support of its members.

The VPA believes that collaboration together with adequate and genuine consultation is directly connected to school improvement and PCO morale.

The VPA believes that the role of PCOs in schools should be strengthened within a framework of self managing schools enhanced by the network leadership provided by RNLs.

The VPA *Regional Network Leader* Position Paper was initiated by VPA Council Members in February 2009.