



## VPA Position Paper

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### Targeted Schools

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) Council has received reports regarding concerns from VPA members across the state in relation to Targeted Schools. The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

#### **Purpose**

The VPA recognises the complexity of the government school system, and the desire for improved school performance across Victoria. Targeting particular schools for intensive levels of systemic intervention is recognised as a potentially useful step in systemic improvement.

#### **Background to the VPA Position**

- The identification of schools for intensive intervention is based on school performance data indicating relative performance at the low end of a statistical distribution.
- Communications to targeted school PCOs from regional office staff regarding the intervention intentions and processes have caused a number of VPA members to feel vulnerable and devalued
- Members report inconsistent systemic approaches to intervention across the state – particularly within Regions.

#### **VPA Position**

- Regional office staff take inclusive actions to engage the principal class officers in targeted schools on the need for supportive intervention
- Regional intervention strategies be negotiated with the principal class officers in individual schools
- The VPA insists that all its members feel supported and trusted to implement the planned interventions by regional personnel over a reasonable period of time.
- Professional coaches should be appointed, when requested by members, for themselves and other staff.
- Intervention must include support for relevant diagnostic and summative testing that can continuously inform intervention practices.
- An intervention strategy should enable the principal to staff the school with sufficient teacher capacity to deliver planned goals and targets.
- Regional network leaders / regional staff be accountable to work with targeted schools in a supportive, tactful and positive manner.
- Access to high level and specifically targeted professional learning to be recognised as being essential in assisting these schools and their personnel to improve student learning outcomes

The VPA *Targeted Schools* position paper was initiated by VPA Council Members February 2009. Further work on this document was undertaken by VPA Board, President and Executive Officer.