



VPA Position Paper

English Online Assessment Implementation

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) welcomes development of a detailed assessment tool to monitor English across the early years P—2. The VPA believes that this tool requires careful implementation with adequate resources and consultation.

Purpose

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) will monitor the recent implementation plans for the English Online interview announced in early August and at present scheduled for October 2009.

Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- The VPA received immediate feedback from members when informed in early August via DEECD memos were sent to members and invitations to attend briefings with the planned implementation to occur within just over 2 months.
- VPA sent a survey instrument to members to ascertain member views about the English Online testing. There was a huge response. There were over 340 respondents over a 24 hour period. The results were as follows:
 1. **Over 80%** of respondents **would not** have existing staff who would be able to administer the English Online interview within your present School Global Budget allocation.
 2. 225 Principals estimated that **\$1,253,164** would be required from SGB in Victorian Government schools to implement the English Online Assessment. This has not been planned or budgeted for in 2009.
 3. **Over 70%** of respondents **do not** believe that the timing of the English Online Assessment in October does not align with their P-2 assessment schedules as planned.
- A Government memo confirmed that the amount of time to conduct each interview is 45minutes – 60 minutes for each student in P-2.
- A Government memo told Schools that Class teachers need to find an additional 25 hours over two weeks to meet requirements starting 12- 23 October 2009.
- Benchmarking from the Early Years Program has occurred at the end of the school year. Consequently it can then provide a clear indication of child's level in preparation for the next school year.
- There is a real concern that whilst testing occurs on a one to one basis within the class setting, the rest of class is doing "busy work" whilst the instrument is being administered. Term 4 is one of the most crucial teaching terms.
- Teachers in the pilot program report that whilst more able students are able to complete all modules within a 45 to 60 minute period, those students who struggle can take up to an 75 to 90 minutes and need to complete it over two or three sessions.

VPA Position

1. Financial requirements:

- Fully Funded CRT- as Federal Government does for AEDI.
- DEECD to provide schools with **\$40 per student** to administer the assessment tool. i.e. fund the implementation of the initiative in schools. Perhaps the funding could come from the **\$100 anomaly** money to go towards implementation.

-
2. More consultation.
 3. Late November /December testing, as this gives a realistic view of what children have achieved in 2009. Many children, Preps, in particular, make great gains during late October and November.
 4. Four weeks for implementation rather than two weeks.
 5. Staged implementation – suggestions:
 - Prep first in 2009 and then follow them through early years with the assessment or
 - Train/ explain in semester two 2009 and commence online testing at start of 2010.
 6. Make the English Online Assessment more user-friendly or shorter so it only takes a maximum of 30 minutes per child.
 7. Have one staff member in the school administer the English online testing instrument so that there is a consistent approach.
 8. Arrange additional Curriculum Days to conduct the English Online Assessments.

The VPA *English Online Assessment Implementation* position paper was initiated by VPA Members in August 2009. Further work on this document was undertaken by VPA President and VPA Team.