

Victorian Principals Association



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VPA eLETTER : November 2009

VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

"If I have the belief that I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it at the beginning."

~Mahatma Ghandi

Facilitate Collegiate Support

A National Conversation with Principals and the Hon Julia Gillard MP 10 and 11 November 2009 Parliament House, Canberra

Context

The Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, invited 150 principals from around Australia to meet with her at Parliament House, Canberra on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November 2009 to commence a conversation about the opportunities and challenges that principals face and how we take forward a shared agenda to lift the achievement of all our students.

The Australian Primary Principals Association was invited to send 65 remote, regional and metropolitan Catholic, Independent and Government principals from all states and territories.

A full report is on APPA's website www.appa.asn.au

The conference began with a keynote address from the Minister and some of the points from her address included:

- *Acknowledgement of the important role of principals. The educational reforms were all about the kids: there is nothing more important than what is happening in schools.*
- *Results have been slipping. Too many poor kids are being left behind. We need to make a difference for the nation's future prosperity. That's what the National Partnerships is all about.*
- *Designing the national curriculum.*
- *Wanting to close the gap between Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students.*
- *Dedicating resources, especially to low SES schools.*
- *Know we won't agree on all things but we seek better understanding.*

The [Myschool](#) website

It has a search function and links to

- The school profile; context, facts, etc. The school profile will also include an Index of community Socio Education Advantage (ICSEA). This is based on region codes through data gained from Australian Bureau of Statistics, family income, parent educational attainment, remoteness and number of Indigenous students.
- NAPLAN data; the shades of green and red denote comparable performance between the school mean and the national mean
- Comparisons with like schools; again, colour coded
- Local and nearby schools – This is a real concern for the VPA and APPA.

Advocate for Members

English Online Assessment

The whole implementation has been less than desirable for schools. This was the scenario the VPA gave DEECD throughout the numerous meetings leading up to this implementation phase.

30 schools in each region have been selected for a DEECD survey by Phillips KPA about English on line. If you have been selected please ensure that you comment in open ended sections about the high cost and the accuracy- see resounding feedback from schools. There is no item asking about either. The time frame is important too and November / December is the VPA position and reinforced clearly by the VPA survey results from over 250 leaders. We need to give DEECD a clear message because they still do not share our concerns.

BER Consultation

National School Pride current status

Schools must ensure funds are expended by 1st February to avoid being put under pressure by Commonwealth to return funds

Timeline extensions are decided on a case by case basis

Schools need to demonstrate extenuating circumstances

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Schools must ensure that they and any contractor sign a contract outlining goods and services to be provided, particularly where of playground works (refurbishment and construction) are concerned

Primary Schools for 21st Century

Round information

Round 3 – More to come on how to manage and deliver. At this point in time it is within the original timeframe in Victoria but Commonwealth has extended it. All round 3 will go to tender by February – 4 week process

Round 1 – The completing was originally in March, but now it is end of December 2010

Round 2 – Due for completing in 2010 but timeframe may move out too.

Again it depends on the progress of individual projects.

Please ensure you meet with your project manager every 2 weeks. This means any concerns can hopefully be ironed out. If there are variations be aware that your school will probably have to pay and it can get very expensive.

Meeting between Minister Pike and APPA Victorian Chapter Report

Catholic, Independents and Government Victorian Primary Principal Representatives met with Minister Pike and John Firth from ACARA as a combined group regarding the following important issues facing schools in Victoria.

1. APPA Transparency Paper – latest APPA Position – national safeguards
2. Victorian Intake Adjusted School Performance Measurement – progress going on the value added model
3. How does the State plan to use any comparative data publication to assist schools?
Also discussed Margaret Wu's paper about the validity of NAPLAN.
4. Comparison between the Federal and State websites
5. Significant workload of Principals in 2009 in support of Government initiatives

Connect & Enlist

VPA Principal Class membership at http://www.vpa.org.au/text/membership_amsw.htm is open to individuals who hold, or who have held, principal class positions with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

VPA Principal Class membership offers:

- Professional advice and assistance
- Collegiate support
- Professional Learning opportunities
- Annual State Conference
- National 'Leadership in Focus' quarterly journal
- Ability to apply for VPA Study Awards
- Afforded Exchange Program opportunities (interstate and overseas)
- Member Benefits Program
- Advocacy on behalf of members
- Voting rights at VPA Annual General Meeting
- Membership of VPA offers automatic membership of APPA (Australian Primary Principals Association) and AGPPA (Australian Government Primary Principals Association)

**** VPA members receive a weekly eletter to support them in their leadership.**

Provide Professional Services and Support to Members

VPA/VASSP Forum on over entitlement BER facilities

This could become a large issue which needs consideration e.g. cleaning, insurance. VPA/VASSP is planning a forum to address these concerns with the tentative date of 24 February 2010.

An exciting initiative by the VPA – VPA China Instructional Leadership - China study tour

One of our Life Members Aileen Hall who is Principal and Cultural Ambassador of the International School in Nanjing, China is planning a study tour in the 3rd term break 18 September – 15 October, 2010. The tour would consist of working in schools and visiting interesting sites around Shanghai, Tongli, Suzhou and Nanjing. Please send me an email if you are interested in finding out more.

Bushfire Support

Message from Victorian Coordinator Victorian Bushfires Support and Training for Affected Schools Project by Principals Australia:

REGENERATING OUR SCHOOLS FOLLOWING ADVERSITY TRAINING DAYS & VENUES

November 30th - Trawool Valley Resort, Trawool

December 3rd - Traralgon (Quality Inn, Latrobe Valley Convention Centre)

December 4th - Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre, South Morang

This program has been generated by Commonwealth Government funding through the Australian Child and Adolescent Trauma, Loss and Grief Network in conjunction with Principals' Australia. The project aims to increase the capacity of teachers, principals and staff to support the social and emotional health and wellbeing of students impacted by the bushfires. The focus will be on Regeneration, Renewal and Remembering (*3 R's) Contact Terry Condon Mobile: 0409 790 770 Email: terry.condon@pa.edu.au

We have a new website with our Position Papers and support for members at <http://www.vpa.org.au/>

Kind Regards

Gabrielle Leigh VPA President

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