



### Out of School Hours Care

With the new legislative framework for both the state and federal governments, the requirements to run Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and holiday programs are considerably greater. The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) is concerned with this impact on Victorian government primary schools and in particular smaller schools.

#### **Purpose**

The VPA strongly recommends that the state and federal governments provide resourcing support for smaller schools to retain the viability of OSHC programs.

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

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- There are excessive demands due to new regulations which is compounded in smaller schools
- A huge problem exists for schools with Single Service Model- high level of stress on Principals and the single person model is very hard to staff.
- There has been a setback for schools that have less than 24 students each night- running at a loss and this is being taken from SRP
- The National Quality Framework legislation involves a disproportionate amount of Principals' time to implement the required demands if he/she is to be an instructional leader for their community
- Regulations are constricting programs because of accreditation, compliance, recovering debts from parents, risk management and red tape
- Lack of qualified staff and a high staff turnover is problematic
- There are compliance concerns regarding occupational health and safety and Emergency Management Procedures
- 'Commercial' child care school based care has imposed additional regulations
- Provision of OSHC is a community need but there is not adequate resourcing in SRP to address this need and provision
- Schools are using SRP funds to subsidise the OSHC program and community raised funds can also be affected

#### **VPA Position**

The VPA advocates for:

- Increased availability of qualified staff
- A single Service Model where the second person required should be given an allowance of \$15,000 within the funding to be on call
- Outsourcing to be cost effective and provide quality service to students and schools
- Regular VPA forums on OHSC to be arranged
- Region and Community Child Care has a specified person to be available to give assistance and additional support to run programs and increase economic viability in smaller schools
- Additional resources to assist primary schools in the implementation of the OSHC program
- A significant increase in funding to address the complexity of travel as it is difficult to transport students to different venues