



# Victorian Principals Association

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## VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

“There are only two times – now and too late.”

~ Ahn Do

**DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN?**

**Our Field Services Officers can help!**

Click [here](#) to send an email to Howard & Terry.

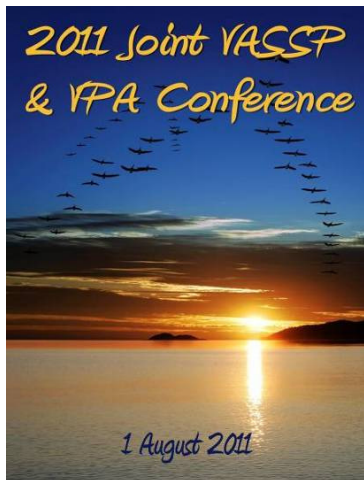
### VPA eletter No. 6: June 2011

**I do wish you all a well deserved vacation break – a time to replenish ready for a busy Term 3.**

### Acknowledgment to Darrell Fraser

I want to acknowledge the significant contribution of Darrell Fraser in his role as Deputy Secretary of School Education in Victoria. Darrell has worked hard to create a comprehensive school improvement agenda across the state. He has been prepared to take on huge and bold initiatives to assist communication channels. The VPA thanks Darrell for his massive commitment to government education in Victoria and wishes him the very best in his next challenge.

## Professional Learning



### 2011 VPA & VASSP Annual Conference

The joint VPA and VASSP Conference is centred around **Building Educational Capacity – Enhancing Leadership Potential**. The combined 1 Day Conference and Annual General Dinner will be held on **Monday 1 August** the **Crown Conference Centre** in Melbourne. Speakers include **Saul Eslake, Wendy McCarthy, Professor Barry McGaw, Professor Richard Teese** and our special guest speaker is **Anh Do**. The MC is **Jenny Brockie** from SBS Insight.

**Registrations are now open!**

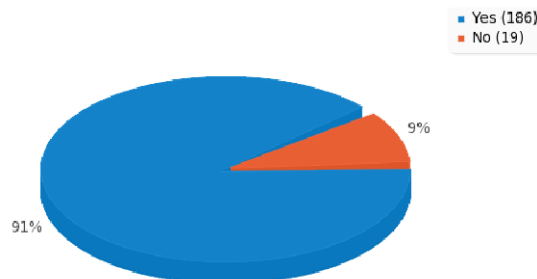
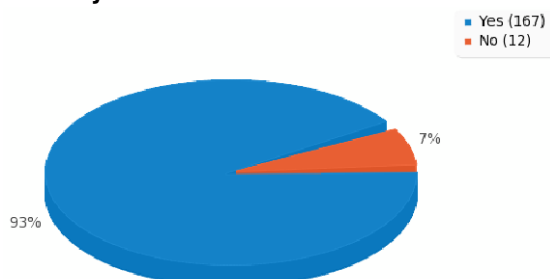
Register online [here](#) or visit our [website](#) to access the registration brochure.

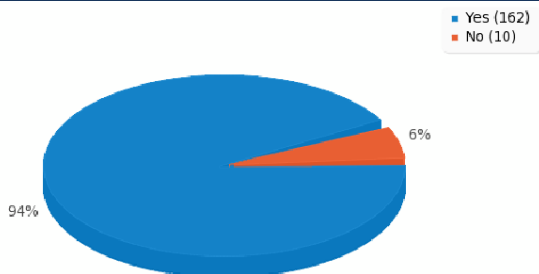
Please consider bringing your leadership team. The cost is \$295 per member and this includes dinner.

## Professional Advocacy

### Performance Pay for Teachers and NAPLAN Provisional Position Papers

The survey results on three provisional position papers; **Performance Pay for Teachers, NAPLAN** and **VIT** have been compiled. There is a strong message emanating from the preliminary data that has come out of the results. **Do the Provisional Position Papers, NAPLAN (see left), Performance Pay for Teachers (right) and VIT (below) reflect your views?**





### National Disabilities Trial

A user guide for schools participating in the trial of the national model for identifying students with disabilities will be provided shortly. Visit the [DEEWR website](#) for further information or click [here](#) for more details about the trial.

### Staff Survey Concerns

The VPA and VASSP met with Sara Glover to drill deeper and discuss a range of alternatives for moving ahead in future years. DEECD has accepted and regrets that there have been a range of problems in the 2011 staff survey process e.g. teaching and non teaching staff split, ES questions, additional number of questions added, inability to get online to complete survey, etc. I took your list of issues and went through them in the meeting. Thank you for your input over the trying 3 weeks of the survey. Sara has assured us that a full evaluation process of the implementation will occur by the beginning of August this year. This will be followed by consultation process. The VPA will be a key stakeholder in this process. However we did question the core purpose of this instrument and whether it should be sample surveys like the Parent Survey or perhaps administered every 2 years. Just to ascertain its value in assisting the development of your school culture we will run a quick feedback to get a firm view of our members' views on the validity and usefulness of this survey instrument in your schools. The VPA wants to give clear input into the future of this instrument.

### Comparison of Ages for Entry into Primary School Across Australia

The following table is research I undertook prior to the story on Channel 9 news about the spread of ages in one grade. It provides a fascinating picture of the complexity of creating a national perspective fuelled by national curriculum implementation across Australia. Surely the fundamental question is what should be the starting age for students in Australia?

State/Territory	Entry age into Prep
Western Australia	5 by 30 June. Single entry point at beginning of school year
New South Wales	5 by 31 July
Victoria	5 by 30 April
Queensland	5 y 30 June. Single entry point
South Australia	Continuous entry after 5th birthday
Tasmania	5 on or by 1 January in year of entry
ACT	5 by 30 April
Northern Territory	4 years and 6 months by 1 January

### Teacher Performance Pay - Important references

#### Education Reform Paper – USA and Australia set the wrong drivers for improvement

Click [here](#) to read Professor Michael Fullan's paper 'Choosing the wrong drivers for whole system reform' on our website. We are forming a Position paper on this issue which we hope to have out to members soon.

## Professional Services and Support

### Regional Meetings

There are a number of Regional Meetings for the VPA planned for Term 3. You are welcome to attend;

SMR	Mornington	Thursday, 4 August
SMR	Dandenong	Tuesday, 9 August
Hume	TBC	Thursday, 11 August
NMR	Sanctuary Lakes	Thursday. 25 August

**NMR**  
**SMR**  
**EMR**

TBC  
Beaumaris  
Ringwood East

**Thursday, 1 September**  
**Wednesday, 7 September**  
**Friday, 9 September**

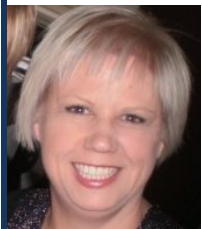
## **ACARA – Australian Curriculum**

### **ACARA Update**

The latest ACARA Update is out now. It features information on the Geography draft curriculum and achievement standards. Click [here](#) to read.

### **Consultation on General Capabilities Materials**

The draft general capabilities materials will be available for consultation on the Australian Curriculum website from Friday 10 June 2011 to **Sunday 7 August 2011**. To view the general capabilities materials and to register for the general capabilities consultation click [here](#).



### **Why join the VPA? A member's experience...**

*I joined the VPA upon entering the Principal Class as I wanted to be involved with a professional organisation that represented and understood the issues I faced in my role. The VPA has enabled me to keep abreast of current topics of interest and has provided me with a voice to contribute to the education agenda. I particularly like the opportunities to provide feedback on the position papers that represent the views of the members. Additionally the professional learning opportunities provided are current, topical and relevant to my role. I have gained information through both regional meetings and as a councillor. This has enabled me to make more informed decisions when leading my school and afforded me the chance to develop stronger collegiate links.*

*My belief in the support offered by the VPA prompted me to join my school's leading teachers as associate members. We all enjoyed the recent conference together and were able to use this along with the Leadership in Focus and eletter publications as points of reference and discussion at our leadership meetings. Most importantly to me though is the knowledge that I know that there is always someone on the other end of the phone who cares about my job. ~Anne-Maree Kliman, Principal St Albans East Primary School*

### **Interesting websites...**

[Draft National Quality Framework Assessment and Rating Documentation](#)

[National Quality Agenda](#)

[RSA Animate](#) Another interesting video by Dan Pink entitled 'The surprising truth about what motivates us' which can be linked to the teaching profession, particularly the notion of performance pay

[Ten Tips for Personalised Learning Via Technology](#) by Grace Rubenstein

To challenge and support each child at his or her own level, the educators of Forest Lake Elementary deploy a powerful array of digital-technology tools. Discover what your school can learn.

[100 Must-Read Blog Posts on the Future of Learning](#)

Find out what direction the relatively new field of online learning might be taking with these articles.

**Gabrielle Leigh**

VPA President