



Victorian Principals Association

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VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

**We Invite you to
join the VPA**

Quote:

"Challenge schools to treat their students as customers with a choice, instead of inmates serving time."

~ David Warlick

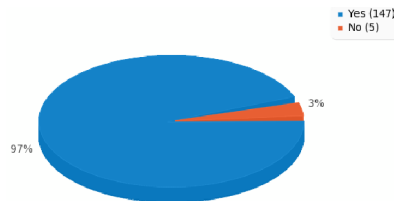
**Our Field Services
Officers can help in
everyday matters**

VPA eletter No. 7: July 2011

Professional Advocacy

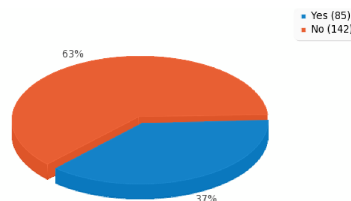
Facilities and Maintenance Provision Position Paper

The VPA recently invited members to participate in a Facilities and Maintenance Provision survey. There is a strong message emanating from the results asking whether the Provisional Position Paper, Facilities and Maintenance Provision, reflect your views?



DEECD Staff Survey- VPA Feedback

Last term the VPA gathered feedback on the DEECD Staff Survey. Over 220 people completed this survey. This enabled the VPA in consultation to give clear and representative input into the development of this instrument. A worrying result came from the question; **Do you find the survey results valuable for driving improvement in your school?**



As you can see approximately 2/3 of participants do not see the survey as it stands has value in assisting school improvement

VPA Staff Opinion Survey Consultation

As a direct response to strong VPA feedback, it is reassuring that DEECD, under the leadership of Sara Glover's section, is setting up a **Consultation Data Group** which will have VPA membership. This gives VPA members a direct feedback loop about the organisational health measurement in schools.

VPA Negotiated Improvements in this year's Staff Survey report to schools

- There will be easy to read support materials with the results
- More general reporting under headings e.g. Professional Growth with specific reports available separately at principal request
- The results will be ready quicker than usual, we hope by the end of August

DEECD Announcement

As you are aware, Jeff Rosewarne acting secretary announced the government direction in education last Friday. The proposal is for six specific areas of responsibility each headed up by a Deputy Secretary.

- Resources and Infrastructure
- Strategy and Review
- Office for Regional Support
- Early Childhood
- School Education
- Higher Education and Skills

The new area is Office of Regional Support. The key responsibilities of this new area will be watched carefully. The timeline is short with further details of the structure being rolled out by mid August.

BER Consultation – Key points for your reference

Statistics as of the end of July 2011

SLC 44 projects completed

P-21 969 projects completed

Opening BER Facilities

Holding a recognition ceremony for BER projects is a requirement of BER guidelines and must be held within three months of the practical completion or handover of a project and schools must provide the government with at least two months notice of the ceremony. Please be aware of these requirements in relation to opening ceremonies- refer to the [BER website](#) under [Recognition](#) and your relevant school Liaison Officer for further information.

Insurance

There is no need for schools to take out additional policies on their buildings. All BER Buildings will be covered under the Department's insurance policy.

NAPLAN and High stakes Testing

A really interesting literature review written by Samuel Lobascher entitled '*What are the potential impacts of high-stakes testing on literacy education in Australia*' explores the potential impacts of high-stakes testing on Australian curriculum and draws on research from the US and UK. The paper concludes that the negative consequences of testing results from a failure to gain support from teachers and provide them with a greater role in the design, implementation and evaluation of tests, as well as input into how test results are used. It is a great read. Click [here](#) to access.

Teacher Performance Pay - Relevant References

New York Abandons Teacher Bonus program

This is an interesting read. Click [here](#) to access.

Professional Services and Support

Regional Meetings

A Loddon Mallee regional VPA meeting was held in Mildura this week.

There are a number of Regional Meetings planned for this term;

SMR	Mornington, Safety Beach	4.30pm, Thursday, 4 August
SMR	Dandenong	Tuesday, 9 August
Hume	TBC	Thursday, 11 August
WMR	Sanctuary Lakes	7.30am, Thursday. 25 August
NMR	North Essendon	Thursday, 1 September
Loddon Mallee	Bendigo	Monday, 5 September
SMR	Beaumaris	Wednesday, 7 September
EMR	Ringwood East	Friday, 9 September

Dare to Lead

Since the inception of the Dare to Lead project several years ago, Principals' associations nationally have supported the initiative and encouraged all schools' membership. This support remains unchanged. While 5500+ schools are currently members of the Dare to Lead Coalition, the VPA encourages membership from every Australian school and the engagement of every Principal across the country. Dare to Lead is not just for schools with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments; it is for every school because every school has its part to play in building the next generation's understanding of Australia and its full history. Joining the Dare to Lead Coalition of schools is free. Membership gives access to resources, to professional discussion and to professional development activities, all led by a team who themselves have a wide experience as principals. Such benefits will be apparent to schools at time when Indigenous students' outcomes are high on the agenda and when the impending National Curriculum sets some new challenges for all teachers and school leaders. We look even more of our (*our* Association) members' schools joining Dare to Lead. Click [here](#) for membership details.

School Councils and Parent Committees Support

There are two peak bodies to support school councils, community involvement and parent committees in your school,

VICCSO and ASCIV. Click [here](#) to learn more about VICCSO or contact Nic Abbey on 9429 5900. Click [here](#) to learn more about ASCIV or contact Stephen Franz Ford on 9808 2499.

Kids Matter- Information Session for Schools

KidsMatter will be providing briefings for school leaders, interested staff and health professionals in the following regions:

- Southern Metro:** 16th August and 6th September
- Loddon Mallee:** 6th September and 7th September
- Northern Metro:** 18th August
- Eastern Metro:** 5th September
- Western Metro:** 23rd August
- Barwon South West:** 15th August
- Grampians:** 25th August
- Gippsland:** 17th August

These briefings are free and will provide an overview of the KidsMatter Framework, resources and Implementation process. Click [here](#) for more details or register [here](#).

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation's Better Buddies Framework

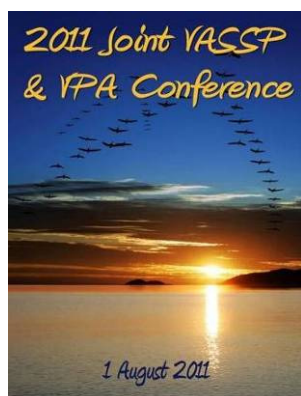
Better Buddies is a whole-school initiative helping to create friendly and caring primary school communities where bullying is reduced. It is designed to enhance existing buddy programs, or introduce a buddy program to primary schools for the first time. Sponsored Frameworks are available now. For more information, visit [here](#).

ACARA Update

The latest ACARA Update is out now. In this update you will find information on the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education. Click [here](#) to read.

Professional Learning

Last Chance



2011 VPA & VASSP Annual Conference Building Educational Capacity – Enhancing Leadership Potential

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**
Register Now!

EXTENDING EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION PRICE

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

Bring your leadership team.

The cost is \$295 per member and this includes dinner.

ICP Conference 15 – 18 August Toronto 2011

Registrations open [here](#). You can visit the VPA [website](#) for more details. We are a member of ICP and encourage you to support this conference. It looks like a terrific program.

Australian Government Primary Principals Association Cocktail Party

AGPPA will host a cocktail party on the Tuesday night at the Novotel.

Parents Victoria Annual Conference 2011

The Parents Victoria Annual Conference will be held at Melbourne Zoo, Parkville on August 16th and 17th. Visit the Parents Victoria [website](#) for further details and a registration form.

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



I joined the VPA so I could continue to learn, reflect, rethink and deepen my conviction to ensure that I along with like minded professionals continue to provide world class education within the communities in which we lead and serve. The VPA has provided me with high quality professional learning opportunities, collegiality and a space in which my views can be expressed and valued. The VPA has a voice and takes a stand. It is a powerful and united community that allows its members to democratically participate in the quest for excellence and ethics, challenging its members to use their voices with integrity and courage. In my role as a VPA councilor for the Northern Metropolitan Region, I have been

able to listen to and support colleagues so together we can develop position papers on important issues. As a member of the VPA and principal class I will champion a radical rethink of our school system, advocating a reform that will see schools cultivate creativity, imagination and innovation. I recommend membership of the VPA to all Principals, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers as an important step on your leadership journey.

~ **Ric Maguire**, Principal, Campbellfield Heights Primary School

Interesting websites...

Global Education Leaders' Program A coalition of thought leaders, policy-makers, consultants, and practitioners from several jurisdictions around the world has come together to design the Global Education Leaders' Program, to address the urgent need for leaders to influence and support change in our current education systems to best help their student populations succeed in the 21st Century.

CISCO- Equipping Every Learner for the 21st Century In this study CISCO worked with leading educational thinkers from around the world to propose a new paradigm of 21st century learning: one that will require a transformation of education systems, using new pedagogic techniques to teach 21st century skills delivered through education reform agendas.

Gabrielle Leigh

VPA President

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