



Victorian Principals Association

Unit 2, 13-21 Vale Street, North Melbourne Victoria 3051, Australia
t: (03) 8379 4000 f: (03) 9326 9950 e: info@vpa.org.au w: www.vpa.org.au
Freecall: 1800 VPA VPA (Vic Country)



VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

~ **Helen Keller**

VPA eletter No. 11: November 2011

We hope you consider joining the VPA for 2012. The VPA will assist you in Professional Advocacy, Professional Learning, Professional Support and many other ongoing services as a Principal Class member.

Professional Advocacy

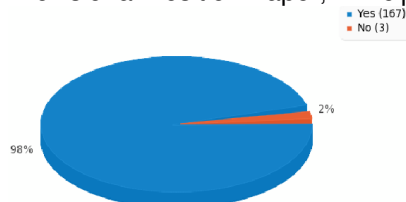
National Day of Action for Public Education

Thanks for your excellent response to support government funding for government schools by sending emails on our National Day of Action last Tuesday. Gonski received over 15 000 emails from across Australia. Victorian educators responded particularly well with over 6300 responses. We are awaiting the hand down of the report in December 2011. I will keep you all informed about the national landscape as this funding review unfolds. However our message has been firmly delivered.

Survey on Principal Support Provisional Position Paper

The survey results for the Provisional Position Paper, **Principal Support**, have been compiled. Thank you to all the 170 respondents for participating in the survey.

There is a strong message emanating from the preliminary data in response to the following questions - Does the Provisional Position Paper, Principal Support, reflect your views?



National Partnerships

We are very concerned that the reward payments from the National Partnerships in **Literacy and Numeracy** which finish at the end of 2011 have not been passed on to schools. This does not seem in the spirit of program. The VPA is making enquiries into this process. Click [here](#) to read an Age article regarding this issue.

In terms of **low SES National Partnerships** which continue into 2012 and beyond the VPA is alarmed that some regions are planning to retain more than 10%. This is blatantly against the memo from DEECD which has the breakdown clearly set out – 10% centre, 10% regions and 80% directly to schools. Please alert us to any concerns you may have about this process. Schools are accountable for the outcomes so they need to have the money to make the decisions as to how to improve.

As consistent with our Position Paper we are asking for **transparency**.

Anomaly Funding

Click [here](#) to access to a Canberra Times article about schools in certain states across Australia missing out on the \$100 anomaly money. Unfortunately Victoria has still to receive this funding. Please keep asking your state local member. It now amounts to \$300 per primary student in your budget!

Staffing

Field Officers' Report by Jenni Beer and Terry Howard

The overriding issue for Principals around the state at present is staffing. It is the time of year for implementing workforce plans and advertising vacancies and schools need to pay particular attention to the processes for dealing with referrals, family leave returnees and proposed changes to time fractions. It is worth taking the time to re-visit the recruiting staff procedures on the HR website to consider all contingencies regarding the employment of staff. Please refer to our [Staff Referral Position Paper](#) which we have sent on to prominent politicians and government officials including Ministers Hall and Dixon. If we can assist in any way, do not hesitate to contact us.

Planned changes to Student Support Services in schools

Below is a summary of the update presented at the October Council meeting by Nino Napoli (Assistant General Manager, Financial Services Division, DEECD):

- **A new model is proposed for 2012:**
 - All resources for the SSS will be directly allocated to clusters of schools.
 - The clusters will be locally managed by an executive of Principals and an elected Cluster Chair, with **funding available to employ an administrative officer to support the local administration.**
 - Existing SSS staff will be transferred to the relevant clusters.
 - As vacancies arise Principals will choose to advertise the vacancy as an Education Support position and to purchase outsourced services as required by the cluster / school.

- **The next steps:**
 - Consultation conducted on this proposed model (Nov-Dec)
 - The Minister / Secretary to approve the final model for roll-out (post consultation)
 - SSS guidelines and support developed (Jan-Feb 2012)
 - Interim funding models for networks developed (Mar 2012)
 - Interim Cluster Chairs identified (Mar 2012)
 - A planning day organized for Cluster Chairs and key regional staff (April 2012)
 - Interim governance and resource model implemented (Jul 2012).

Professional Services and Support

2012 Victorian Education Excellence Awards

Applications Now Open

Applications for the 2012 Victorian Education Excellence Awards are now open. Awards, guidelines and application forms are available [online](#). The Victorian Education Excellence Awards recognise the important contributions made by early childhood and school teachers, leaders and education support staff to their schools, kindergartens and communities. Applications close on **Friday 16 December 2011**. For enquiries please contact the Awards Coordinator on 9637 2866 or email excellence.awards@edumail.vic.gov.au

Preview of 2010 School Financial Data to be Released on My School Website

Principals are able to preview their school's 2010 financial data on the *My School* website between 21 November and 14 December 2011 via the ACARA Principals' Portal refer **S442-2011**.

My School Website ICSEA Data and comment Preview

The ACARA Principals' Portal opened on 18 November 2011. Principals are able to view their **draft ICSEA** value and their **school comments** file and request changes between 18 November and 30 November refer **S448-2011**

MySchool Survey for Principals – please respond

You are invited to participate in a research project with Ms Roxy McGuire. The **aim is to investigate government school principals' emotional, cognitive and behavioural responses to the My School website**. The study will make a valuable contribution to our understanding of the flow on effects of accountability initiatives. If you have not had a chance to complete the survey yet, click [here](#) for the online survey.

English Online Interview- 2012 Assessment Period

The 2012 English Online Interview assessment period will occur **from 2 February to 2 March 2012**. The Interview will remain open until 9 March to enable schools to finalise assessments. It is **mandatory for Prep students** to be assessed during the 2012 English Online Interview assessment period. Schools can elect to use the English Online Interview for students in Years 1 and 2 during the assessment period. The English Online Interview provides diagnostic information across all dimensions of the VELS English domain for students in Years Prep to 2. Reports are immediately available at the level of the student, class or school and provide data to inform planning to meet the needs of students. The English Online Interview Training System opened on **7 November 2011** and is accessible [here](#).

Promoting a National Professional Learning System

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) has released a draft *Australian Charter for the Professional Learning of Teachers and School Leaders* (the Charter), endorsed by all Ministers of Education, for national consideration and conversation. The Charter focuses on improving teacher and school leader professional

practice through ongoing professional learning, directly addressing and supporting the National Professional Standards for Teachers and Principals. For further information and a copy of the draft Charter click [here](#).

Lifestyle of our Kids (LOOK) PE Study related to student learning outcomes

A LOOK study by Professor Dick Telford shows clear links between physical activity, exercise and classes taken by specialist physical education teachers leading to improved NAPLAN results. He has also done extensive research into the added value of school sport. Click [here](#) to access the article.

Asia Education Foundation

National Statement on Asia Literacy

Developed by the Asia Education Foundation and noted by AEEYSOC, the *National Statement on Asia Literacy in Australian Schools 2011-2012* supports the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians which recognises that the growing influence of India, China and other Asian nations, both globally and in Australia, is a major change in the world that impacts on the future of all young Australians. The *National Statement* identifies the broad knowledge, skills and understandings required by all students to achieve Asia literacy in the context of existing policies and practices in teaching and learning and **sets out six interlinked areas of action required to achieve Asia literacy and deliver on the intent of the new Australian Curriculum**. Download, order a hard copy, view video and have your say [here](#).

Professional Learning

SAVE THE DATE



2012 Trans Tasman Conference
SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday 18 - Friday 21 September
Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre
our primary purpose
Leading Learning

APPA/NZPF Trans Tasman Conference

Preparations are well under way for the **APPA/NZPF Trans Tasman Conference- Our Primary Purpose Leading Learning**, at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre on **September 18-21, 2012**. We have already booked a stellar cast of speakers including Andy Hargreaves (Canada), Pasi Sahlberg (Finland), Yong Zhao (China) Lucinda Hartley (Australia) and Kishore Mahbubani (Singapore). Make sure you save the date in your 2012 diary and register now

You can register online [here](#) or through the [VPA website](#).

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



When I gained promotion to my first Principal Class position, membership of the VPA was not something I considered. However from working with Principal colleagues within my Network, I realised that the VPA was a valuable resource that supports Principals in many ways but most importantly with school leadership. Support from Field Officers was as close as a phone call and provided advice for questions that varied from simple "Where do you find...?" through to more complex issues. My experience with the VPA is that Professional Development is relevant and topical whilst 'Leadership in Focus' provides stimulating reading that assists to generate ideas and/or reinforce school direction.

Moreover, I find the VPA is a proactive professional organisation that not only supports the individual but is also shaping the future direction of State Education. It listens to Principals and acts for them.

~**Graeme Scoberg**, Principal, Swan Hill Specialist School

Interesting websites...

[Wordle](#) – generate word clouds from text

[Wordle Ideas](#) – ways to use Wordle in your classroom

[Tagxedo](#) - turns words, speeches, news articles, slogans and themes into a visually stunning word cloud, words individually sized appropriately to highlight the frequencies of occurrence within the body of text

[Tagxedo Ideas](#)– 101 ways to use Tagxedo

Gabrielle Leigh

VPA President

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