



Victorian Principals Association

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VPA Position Paper

National Partnerships

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) is pleased with the amount of additional funding in approximately 500 of our schools, due to the Federal government initiatives to fund low SES and Literacy and Numeracy needs. However the VPA is concerned about the lack of transparency in the distribution of National Partnership funding across schools in Victoria and the ensuing lack of clarity.

Purpose

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) acknowledges that disadvantaged schools need extra funding to improve student learning outcomes. However the VPA believes that the process for distribution of National Partnership funding needs to be transparent and fair. Principals and school communities need to understand how the money is allocated.

Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- The current allocation of National Partnership funding varies widely across regions
- There appears to be serious and unexplained inequities with the process of distributing National Partnership funding across schools
- There has been a time lag in payment to schools for staffing
- Some regions have been retaining 19.5% of schools National Partnership staffing funds for administrative on-costs. This is 5% more than the norm.

VPA Position

The VPA advocates for:

- Allocation of National Partnership funding according to school needs to comply with an open and transparent formula
- Schools need to be fully informed about the total National Partnership money available
- Schools should be consulted about planning improvements
- DEECD should be accountable in publishing an annual overview of how, where and why National Partnership funding is allocated to schools now and into the future
- There should be money allocated to schools to satisfy the accountability processes re additional testing.
- Regional Directors need to be accountable and able to publish the criteria for selection for all networks, National Partnership funding distribution to schools, as well as being accountable for withholding for oncosts
- All National Partnership processes to be transparent and information readily available