



Victorian Principals Association

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VPA Position Paper

Student Resource Package Funding

Purpose

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) seeks to ensure that adequate funding is apportioned to the Student Resource Packages (SRP) to deliver high quality education throughout Victorian government schools.

Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- The funding model is based on a “unit cost” rate that is below the reality of a majority of staff profiles resulting in a technical deficit before principals even start their budget processes.
- Lack of transparency in current SRP allocations
- Concern over personal leave entitlements - additional costs accruing to schools, many teachers not exercising a professional and ethical approach with respect to personal leave entitlements
- School utilities cost increases of up to 30% in past two years, including electricity, gas and water
- Funding for annual contracts is grossly insufficient
- Level 4 funding almost impossible to obtain for severely behaviour challenged students
- Language disorder funding is inadequate
- Combination of different funding rates into Year 1 and Year 2 rate, decreases SRP funding to schools e.g. a reduction of the funding rate for Year 2 students without consultation has caused a drop in RP allocations for P-6 schools
- Cleaning allowance funding is inadequate, particularly with the new BER facilities schedules
- Inadequate ICT funding to schools
- Inadequate funding for school office administration staffing

VPA Position

The VPA advocates for:

- Transparency in reporting SRP income
- A hyperlink to be made available to give budget scenarios with varying size schools, providing an indication of how budgets could be allocated thus assisting recently appointed principals
- Additional funds needed for Sick and Carer Leave to cover the actual costs
- An immediate funding addition to SRP (and retrospectivity) due to meet increasing utility costs
- Immediate funding to cover the costs of fire services maintenance and electrical tagging
- Funding to be based on need
- Increase all funding to the national average of real in school dollar amounts per child
- Review of cleaning rates to reflect real cleaning costs

- An increase in ICT funding for hardware, local technician salaries and greater TSSP time allocations
- Fund-in rate to be at the genuine “average” of a “normal” staffing profile based on enrolments.