



Victorian Principals Association

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VPA Position Paper

Facilities and Maintenance Provision

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) is concerned that schools on the priority list for Building Future's funding for upgrades or rebuilding have been disadvantaged with the advent of Building the Education Revolution (BER) whereby many projects have been deferred, postponed or suspended.

Purpose

The VPA seeks greater clarity with the provision of facilities in Victorian schools, following the BER program. Maintenance issues for other building stock need to be addressed in a more timely manner.

Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- Lack of adequate funding to address maintenance issues in schools
- Private Public Partnership (PPP) model seems to be working well in those 11 schools
- Building Future's resource provision has been changed since the BER projects commenced
- Principals are spending excessive time dealing with maintenance issues
- A number of principals do not have knowledge of suitable agencies and contractors with expertise in the many areas of school maintenance

VPA Position

The VPA advocates for:

- Provision of additional resourcing for adequate buildings and grounds maintenance
- Increased allocation in Student Resource Package (SRP) funding to cover added utilities costs associated with open plan BER Projects and Building Futures provision and costs of necessary inspections e.g. CFA, Gas, Air conditioning, etc
- Extension of the maintenance model used in PPP schools
- Greater transparency of resource provision to schools with funding amounts provided
- Building maintenance employees or Project Managers need to be employed to free up principals to focus on educational leadership. This could be on a cluster / network basis
- Lists of appropriately credentialed contractors and tradesmen to be established to assist principals in accessing reliable and reputable maintenance workers