



# Victorian Principals Association

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## VPA Position Paper

### Relocatable Provision in Schools

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) Members are seeking higher levels of service from the DEECD relocatable program across Victoria. The VPA calls upon the DEECD to meet the following standards for each relocatable delivery.

#### Background to the VPA Position

- The VPA recognises that some installations of relocatable buildings are challenging and expensive, however, individual school communities should expect equal service and fair treatment from the program.
- VPA members have reported wide variations in services provided to schools under this program, especially in the past two years.
- Many schools are advised by Contract and Procurement Division that they are over-entitled and that the removal of a portable is being considered, the decision being dependent on future enrolment data rather than how the space is currently being used by the school.
- The additional space provided by relocatable/ portable buildings is essential for many schools to implement the key messages of *Towards Victoria as a Learning Community*, in particular the Minister's message about partnerships supporting efficient and effective learning opportunities in order to "fully meet the future needs of students by collaborating and fostering networks of partners to build personal learning experiences for each student."
- In keeping with Victoria as a Learning Community, schools are using relocatables to run programs arising from strong partnerships they have established with community groups, local councils, business and universities. These programs are particularly effective in addressing the complex needs of students who are disadvantaged or vulnerable. They include Refugee Education Support programs, intensive EAL programs, Parent Group programs, Victoria University Kinda Kinder, the School Centre of Teaching Excellence program, community hub programs and local council bilingual classes.

#### VPA Position

##### The VPA advocates for

- DEECD to reference more than just the Facilities Schedule and a narrow band of future enrolment projections, when reaching decisions about relocating portables. The school's current use of the space, especially the provision required to implement initiatives aligned to *Towards Victoria as a Learning Community* must be considered as part of the process.
- The VPA members have compiled a checklist to set minimum standards for delivery and installation and to assist members in negotiations with regions and installers.
- The VPA believes that DEECD need to decommission the older mod 5 buildings and have more new relocatable buildings provided to schools.
- The VPA strongly believes no school should be provided with 'older style' Mod 2, 3 and 5 buildings or buildings which contain any risk of asbestos contamination.
- The VPA believes that the following relocatable checklist should be adhered in provision of relocatables to schools.

## VPA Relocatable Checklist

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<b>Delivery/Pick Up</b>	
Advance warning of arrival and departure – minimum one month	
Regional staff advises of contractor contact	
No asbestos – Part 6 inspection to be completed prior to arrival	
Evaluate if upgrade of school power supply required	
Gas to mains system when available – not bottles	
Provision of safety fences during works	
Fences restored to original condition	
Sufficient time to set up with furniture after installation	
Furniture allowance to be supplemented annually in line with CPI increases	
<b>Internal</b>	
Location and number of data points/power outlets to be negotiated	
Up to date data and phone cabling installation including optic fibre where needed	
Very good quality and clean carpets	
Consideration of storage – eg. decommission old heater and utilise space for storage	
Working alarm connected to existing system	
Air-conditioning split system – tested and to be sufficient capacity	
Internal paint in excellent condition	
Overhead fans tested for operability and minimum noise	
Suitable wet areas with plumbing, including flooring	
PA system tested and suitable	
Installation of whiteboards - interactive whiteboards to match other classrooms	
Adequate pinboard and display space	
Modular storage units and coat hooks included	
Cupboard doors in working condition	
Curtains/Blinds to be provided	
<b>External</b>	
Verandas – Covered ways leading to existing areas	
Minimum 2 metre width paving to link existing buildings	
Ramps instead of steps	
Hand rails to building code	
Treads on stairs to building code	
Minimise steps with new paths	
Water connected	
Wireless internet connected	
External painting in good condition and fitting in with existing building colours	
Safety glass, operable condition, no finger entrapment	

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No zinc or galvanising touching - electrolytic reaction	
Ladder access points installed	
TV aerial connection	
<b>Other</b>	
12 month fault period	
Restoration of space – upon removal including fencing	
Where portable buildings are supplied as a campus for one school on the grounds of a different school, billing meters for gas, power and water to be installed - safety glass to all windows and door regardless of height from ground level	