
SCHOOL POLICY & FUNDING ADVISORY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL STATEMENT: JUNE 2018

ABOUT

Welcome to the second Official Statement of the School Policy and Funding Advisory Council (Council).

Established in 2015, Council provides advice to the Minister for Education on regulatory, policy and funding issues that affect government and non-government schools.

Council is made up of the following members:

- Gill Callister, Secretary, Department of Education and Training (Chair)
- Stephen Elder, Executive Director, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria
- Michelle Green, Chief Executive, Independent Schools Victoria
- Katy Haire, Deputy Secretary – Early Childhood and School Education Group, Department of Education and Training
- Professor Kwong Lee Dow, Independent Member, representing the views of students in all Victorian schools.

Council meets at least three times each year, and Official Statements will be shared with the school community after each meeting. The Department provides secretariat support to the Council.

KOORIE STUDENTS

At the March 2018 meeting, Council established a new working group to raise the achievement and aspirations of Koorie students across all school sectors. Council members agreed that the group would include representatives from the Department, CECV, ISV, and the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated.

Initially, the group will focus on collaborative actions outlined in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy. Specifically, the group will focus on:

- improving attendance and engagement of Koorie students;
- transition points, including pathways to post-school options;
- early childhood transitions;
- improving early career teachers' competencies in relation to teaching Koorie students and promoting greater respect and understanding of Koorie culture and history; and
- the Victorian Curriculum.

The establishment of this working group is a vital first step in coming together to address common challenges and capitalise on shared opportunities to improve learning outcomes for Koorie students.

Learning from each sector's strengths and sharing expertise regarding these national collaborative actions will help provide Koorie learners with greater opportunities to achieve their educational aspirations and provide Koorie students with the best possible experience at school.

The working group's first meeting will be held prior to the next Council Meeting in July 2018.

SCHOOL LEADERS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND RESPECT (SLFGER)

The School Leaders for Gender Equality and Respect Group was introduced in November's Council Statement and has now met three times, discussing key priorities for promoting gender equality and respect in schools. The group comprises of principals, students and education leaders representing all sectors.

At the Working Group meeting in March 2018, members participated in an informative and wide ranging conversation, sharing examples and personal reflections on leading and influencing in school settings.

The most recent meeting in April was organised as a workshop to inform the development of an Action Plan for 2018, which it is anticipated will be presented to Council in July.

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SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & WORKFORCE

Since its inception, the Council has recognised the importance of working together across school sectors to lift the educational outcomes of all Victorian students. Supporting and enhancing the skills of school leaders and staff has been a strong focus of the Council. This has culminated in the development of two programs to progress cross-sectoral collaboration in professional development, focusing on rural and regional Victoria:

- Access to thought leaders in education such as leading academics and other experts in the field; and
- Provision of professional learning for aspiring principals and senior teachers in all Victorian schools.

Access to thought leaders in education is a jointly hosted program providing participants with the opportunity to engage with a prominent thought leader from the education sector through workshops and seminars. To enable participation across Victoria, some of the sessions will also be made available online.

A professional learning opportunity will also be extended to regionally-based middle leaders in schools across the government and non-government sectors to participate in an online Learning Specialists core module '*Leading Change for Improvement*'. This opportunity is being developed and run by the Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership.

Both programs are expected to be in place from July 2018.

				
Ms Gill Callister (Chair) Secretary Department of Education and Training	Mr Stephen Elder Executive Director Catholic Education Commission of Victoria	Ms Michelle Green Chief Executive Independent Schools Victoria	Ms Katy Haire Deputy Secretary Department of Education and Training	Prof. Kwong Lee Dow Independent Member University of Melbourne

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