

Victoria the *Education State*: Schools

September 2015

In September 2015, the Victorian Government released its policy document the [Education State: Schools](#), outlining its plan to make Victoria the 'Education State' through school funding, initiatives and targets.

Prior to the 2014 state election, Victorian Labor committed to making education a key focus of an Andrews Labor Government and working towards making Victoria's education system the best in Australia.

2015-16 Victorian Budget: Education announcements

The Victorian Labor Government began the roll-out of its commitment to making Victoria the 'Education State,' in its first Budget. The 2015-16 Victorian Budget, saw \$3.9 billion in funding allocated to Victoria's education system - the largest ever funding allocation for education in Victoria's history.

The 2015-16 Victorian Budget committed funding for the following priorities in the education portfolio:

- \$730 million to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across Victoria;
- \$148 million for camps, sports and excursions to replace the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) funding cut by the previous Coalition Government;
- \$30 million to provide the basics students need such as uniforms, textbooks, breakfasts and eye-glasses;
- \$1.6 million for mentoring programs for students;
- \$1 million for the Safe Schools Coalition to safeguard all students from bullying and homophobia; and
- \$8 million to establish and support 10 Tech Schools – to provide a shared learning environment for students, involving a partnership between local schools, local government, TAFE, university and industry partners.

The *Education State*: Schools policy

The Government has recognised within *Education State: Schools* sets out various policy targets across the entire Victorian primary and secondary education system, to be met over a 10 year period.

The *Education State: Schools* was produced following stakeholder consultation with students, parents, carers, teachers, principals, school council members, businesses and the broader community.

The objectives of the consultations were to:

- Test and validate the vision for an *Education State*;

- Understand and acknowledge various ideas and priorities in establishing Victoria as the ‘*Education State*’; and
- Understand and acknowledge the existing and emerging needs of Victorian schools as a whole, particularly the needs of teachers and students.

Education State: Targets

The Andrews Labor Government stated within the *Education State: School*, that working in partnership with parents, the wider community, the community sector, museums, galleries, libraries and industry will be key in order to deliver the targets that have been set out within the policy document.

The targets set out in *Education State: Schools*, fall under four key areas, which aim to be reached within the next 10 years. These goals include:

Learning for Life

- Over the next five years for Year 5, and the next 10 years for Year 9, 25 per cent more Victorian students to reach the highest levels of achievement in reading and mathematics;
- Over the next 10 years, for a 33 per cent increase in Victorian 15 year olds to reach the highest levels of achievement in scientific literacy;
- Over the next 10 years, for more Victorian students to reach the highest levels of achievement in the arts, with the specific measure to be developed by 2016; and
- Over the next 10 years, for more Victorian students will reach the highest levels of achievement in critical and creative thinking, with the baseline and target to be identified by December 2016.

Happy, Healthy and Resilient Kids

- Over the next 10 years, for Victorian students reporting high resilience to grow by 20 per cent; and
- Over the next 10 years, for portion of Victorian students doing physical activity five times a week to increase by 20 per cent.

Breaking the Link

- Over the next 10 years, for Victoria to reduce the impact of disadvantage on achievement, with the measure to be developed by December 2015; and
- Over the next 10 years, to halve the proportion of students leaving education during Years 9 to 12.

Pride and Confidence in our Schools

- The Victorian Government seeks to raise the levels of pride and confidence in State schools, with measures to be developed by December 2016.

Education State: Initiatives

Funding has been allocated to seven key initiatives included in *Education State: Schools* which seek to address the needs of teachers and students during primary and secondary education years, including:

- \$566 million over four years targeted at improving student outcomes;

- \$21.6 million over three years to assist all State school teachers carry out classes according to the [new Victorian Curriculum](#), including mandatory new subjects such as digital coding and respectful relationships;
- \$82.2 million over four years for an approximately extra 150 locally-based staff to provide operational support and advice, enabling principals to focus on students;
- \$27 million over five years to train 200 Primary Maths and Science Specialists working in 100 of Victoria's most disadvantaged schools;
- \$12.1 million over four years to double principal training numbers and increase training for those seeking to become a school principal;
- \$13.2 million over four years to establish and operate LOOKOUT Education Support Centres for the more than 6,000 school-aged kids in out of home care; and
- \$8.6 million over two years to help re-engage Victorian students who prematurely leave school and training.

These initiatives were developed by the Victorian State Education Minister's Expert Panel for Schools, comprising of:

- Mr Tom Bentley, writer and policy adviser;
- Professor Deborah Corrigan, Deputy Dean and Co-Director of the Centre for Science, Maths & Technology Education, Faculty of Education, Monash University;
- Professor Stephen Dinham OAM, Chair of Teaching Education and Director of Learning and Teaching, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne;
- Professor John Hattie, Director Melbourne Educational Research Institute, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne;
- Dr Ben Jensen CEO, Learning First;
- Professor Stephen Lamb Director of the Centre for International Research on Education Systems and Research Chair in Education, Victoria University Associate;
- Professor David MacKenzie Faculty of Health, Arts and Design, Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University;
- Professor Collette Tayler Chair in Early Childhood Education and Care in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne; and
- Professor Christine Ure Head of the School of Education, Deakin University.

Education State: School Funding

The *Education State: Schools* builds on the 2015-16 Victorian Budget by detailing how \$747 million in Gonski funding will be distributed.

From 2016, additional needs-based funding will be distributed to State schools on a per student basis. The *Education State* funding includes \$566 million over four years, resulting in boosting needs-based funding to Victorian schools by more than 70 per cent.

Furthermore, an extra \$2000 will be allocated for each State secondary school student who did not meet minimum NAPLAN standards when they were a student in Year 5.

The Victorian Government will also explore funding reforms to the school system which will be guided by the recommendations of the [Bracks School Funding Review](#), due to be released in late 2015.

Other consultations focusing on Victoria's education

The release of *Education State: Schools* is one part of the wider conversation and public consultation the Victorian State Government is holding with the public. Other significant reviews and consultations include:

Government Schools Funding Review

Former Premier Steve Bracks has been appointed to investigate and make recommendations to the State Education Minister regarding future funding arrangements for Victoria's schools for the period beyond 2017. Although official submissions have closed, the community is still being encouraged to make a contribution and express their opinion.

The Review is to be completed by the end of 2015.

The community is able to make further comment relating to this Review [here](#).

VET Funding Review

An independent review into the VET funding system was established by the Victorian State Government in order to provide recommendations to the Victorian Government in order to create a more sustainable funding system and align with the goals of the Government's [Back to Work](#) plan.

An independent review into the VET funding system is being chaired by Mr Bruce Mackenzie. Phase one of the Review has been completed, with the release of an Issues Paper in July 2015. The paper outlines a summary of changes being considered by the VET Funding Review, including:

- Better targeted funding;
- Supporting and protecting students;
- Sustainable and supported TAFEs;
- Supporting jobs and industries; and
- Supporting training for vulnerable, disadvantaged and high needs groups.

Further information about the VET Funding Review is available [here](#).

Future Industries Fund

As part of the Victorian State Government's vision to take a holistic approach to education, it is seeking to involve and connect industry with students before they enter the workforce. To assist this vision, the Victorian Government has established a \$200 million Future Industries Fund and is currently consulting with the business community, unions, industry and other levels of government to identify the initiatives that will best support eight identified high-growth sectors that have potential to attract jobs and investment in Victoria in order to increase future employment opportunities for Victorian students.

The eight sectors include:

- Medical technologies and pharmaceuticals;
- New energy technologies;
- Food and fibre;
- Transport technologies;
- Defence technology;



- Construction technologies;
- International education; and
- Professional services.

Further information about the Future Industries Fund and consultations is available [here](#).

Early Childhood Consultation Paper

The Victorian State Government has released the [Early Childhood Consultation Paper](#) and is encouraging the community to contribute to the conversation around early years' education and experiences with the early childhood services.

Further information about the Early Childhood Consultation Paper is available [here](#).

Next steps

The Victorian Government has said the release of the *Education State: Schools* is the first part of its broader plan to make Victoria the 'Education State.' The Victorian Government has said it will continue to hold consultations with stakeholders, the community and industry around the early childhood and skills and training sectors. The Victorian Government has also said it will continue to work with the Victorian State Education Minister's Expert Panel for Schools to identify opportunities to improve Victoria's education system.



Further information

Further information about *Education State: Schools* is available [here](#).

Further information about other consultations the Victorian Government is holding around education is available [here](#).