



# Victorian Principals Association

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## VPA Position Paper

### Cleaning Provision in Schools

#### Purpose

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) seeks to ensure that the cleaning funding component in School Resource Packages (SRP) adequately reflects the new learning spaces, the rising costs and the growing needs of schools.

#### Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- Schools need to maintain all buildings in a clean state and have a regular schedule of cleaning learning areas in order to comply with Occupational Health and Safety regulations
- The terms, 'normal use and low use' are not relevant in the context of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning spaces. The modern pedagogy ensures that all learning areas are being used as flexible spaces
- Concerns over equity of service across schools in Victoria
- Problems with inadequacy in SRP funding to cater for external cleaning costs by a designated person. Presently SRP funds are inadequate to cover compliance requirement contracts and other contracts such as sanitary bins
- Concern that big cleaning companies are monopolising tendered school cleaning contracts, eliminating opportunities for local community members, who may have more of a heightened sense of pride in their work

#### VPA Position

The VPA advocates for:

- The Contract Cleaning Schedule (student enrolment/per square metre) to be reviewed to reflect schools that have built flexible learning areas and shared learning spaces. Flexible learning areas must all be included as distinct from travel space and withdrawal areas that fall under the traditional "low use" identification
- Elimination of the terms, 'normal use and low use' cleaning areas. A realistic cleaning budget for all onsite learning spaces at the normal usage rate of \$18.56 per square metre with yearly cost of living indexation
- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) to provide a caretaker or maintenance person allocation for cleaning outside areas to regularly clean school facilities as paths, windows, drinking fountains
- Additional money be provided in the SRP to cover compliance requirement contracts and other contracts such as for contracts, like sanitary bins
- DEECD to facilitate more of the Public/ Private partnerships approach for schools to access in the way of cleaning and maintenance
- Abolishment of excessive red tape that prevents local cleaners working in schools
- The costs need to be transparent and clearly defined in the SRP