



Victorian Principals Association

Unit 2, 13-21 Vale Street, North Melbourne Victoria 3051, Australia

t: (03) 8379 4000 f: (03) 9326 9950 e: info@vpa.org.au w: www.vpa.org.au

VPA Position Paper

EduSTAR Enterprise Wireless Network

Purpose

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) wishes to ensure that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) equip the remaining 30% of Victorian government schools with the eduSTAR.net Enterprise Wireless Network. These schools have so far been denied this infrastructure which all secondary schools and BER template primary schools are currently reaping the benefits from. The enterprise wireless package includes additional wireless access points, a wireless LAN controller, eduSTAR.net server and integration into the DEECD network. This would eliminate the need for individual certificates to be created for wireless devices across the school, thereby improving new ICT delivery to students and allow users to easily roam between schools.

Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- The same schools that were unable to utilise Federal funding to acquire a BER template building are disadvantaged further by being denied the government funded eduSTAR.net solution and could be asked to pay costs in excess of \$20,000 for the new infrastructure
- The remaining 30% of Victorian schools are being left to function with their existing and outdated system that will become obsolete at the end of this year
- Concern that the current situation has created an unequal two-tiered system, between those schools deployed with and allowed to operate the new enterprise wireless system, and those banished to use an antiquated system that does not support their developing ICT programs for students
- Primary schools across the state are constantly being encouraged and challenged to provide innovative and cutting edge ICT programs to their students, yet more than a quarter of them are denied full access to essential infrastructure
- Information Technology Division (ITD) has a limited internal cost component for the further implantation of the system to cover integration and additional infrastructure.

VPA Position

The VPA advocates for:

- The DEECD to implement the eduSTAR.net package across ALL Victorian Government Schools immediately, by providing the necessary funding to ITD
- A unified “state of the art” wireless system across the state which eliminates the inequality of the current two tiered system. NB. One of the greatest benefits of having EduSTAR.net is that teachers and students moving from school to school are able to connect directly to any school's server and internet. They can log on with the same username and password as in their own school. Another major benefit of the equipment package, is that schools will have better wireless provision across their facilities with more wireless radios being accessible
- All Victorian government primary schools to have equal opportunity to provide innovative ICT programs to their students through their EduSTAR infrastructure