



# Victorian Principals Association

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## VPA Position Paper

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### Free Internet Access for all Schools

#### **Purpose**

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) is calling for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) to provide ongoing free internet access for all government schools.

#### **Background to the VPA Position**

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- The State Government has only agreed to grant free internet access to government schools until the end of 2013
- The internet/fibre replacement is a significant cost to schools when relocatables are moved. This has been the case with the construction of a number of BER buildings
- Many schools experience poor internet speed, particularly if Wireless Access Points need upgrading

#### **VPA Position**

The VPA advocates for:

- Free internet access should be the right of every government school as an essential tool for teaching and learning
- The DEECD to develop a formula for appropriate free internet usage based on school size and rurality and fund each school accordingly
- DEECD to fully fund internet and fibre replacement costs when relocatables are moved from schools
- DEECD to supply sufficient new Wireless Access Points to enable full coverage across schools' amenities

#### **References**

VPA (2012), *EduSTAR Enterprise Wireless Network Position Paper*,  
[http://www.vpa.org.au/image/btn4b/EduSTAR\\_Enterprise\\_Wireless\\_Network.pdf](http://www.vpa.org.au/image/btn4b/EduSTAR_Enterprise_Wireless_Network.pdf)