



# 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](mailto:info@vpa.org.au) w: [www.vpa.org.au](http://www.vpa.org.au)

## VPA Position Paper

### IT Support in Schools

#### Purpose

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) seeks to ensure that information technologies (IT) support for all government schools is consistent with expectations associated with growing IT infrastructure and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

#### Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- Current 20<sup>th</sup> Century infrastructure for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning inhibits performance and increases frustration in our schools
- Technician (TSSP) time is insufficient to meet increasing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) demands
- Insufficient provision of funds for locally employed technicians
- Lack of adequate funding to maintain, upgrade and rollover classroom ICT infrastructure
- Shortfall in Ultranet funding has meant very limited access and unreliable performance
- Unresponsive customer focus in IT branch
- The unsatisfactory partial rollout of eduSTAR.net Enterprise Wireless Network, leaves 30% of schools without any funding to access this important ICT infrastructure

#### VPA Position

The VPA advocates for:

- Additional funding to provide adequate technician (TSSP) time for Victorian government schools with a time fraction of technician time to be implemented e.g. schools of 200-300 students 0.4, 300-400 students 0.6, 400-500 students 0.8, 500 students + 1.0
- Increase in allocation of funds to school SRPs to employ local technicians
- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) to implement the eduSTAR.net package across **ALL** Victorian Government Schools immediately, by providing the necessary funding to the Information Technician Division (ITD). NB. We need a unified “state of the art” wireless system across the state, which eliminates the inequality of the current two tiered system.
- Eliminating school ICT shortfalls identified in Hewitt Packard Report needs to be activated and appropriately funded
- Insurance of leased one-to-one devices to be covered by DEECD and not schools to assist with mobility and agreements
- Increased Ultranet funding to ensure greater reliability and appropriate remote access

- Provision with the option for Education Support (ES), Student Support Service and TSSP staff to lease DEECD laptops if applicable
- Transparency of management in IT branch
- IT branch as public servants need to be more accessible, approachable & accountable
- Increase funding for ICT devices, support and infrastructure to rate of \$500 per student per annum
- Resource schools with 21<sup>st</sup> century ICT infrastructure rather than using 20<sup>th</sup> century roll-outs, formulae and models. Senior DEECD personnel and politicians must understand that the system and demands at a school level is becoming more divergent and sophisticated, through elements such as regeneration, professional learning teams and implementation of the Ultranet
- An increase in wireless access points to match new building sizes
- Principals to be able to access for TSSP hours not fulfilled in a school
- Technicians to be allowed to remove the drop-down eduSTAR Navigation Bar
- Schools that maintain and fund ICT infrastructure to be supported at a similar level to schools that have not embraced the take-up of ICT for whatever reason