



Victorian Principals Association

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VPA Position Paper

Notebook Leasing

Purpose

The Notebooks for Teachers and Principals Program is an established and important component of the Victorian government's education program. The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) is concerned about the inferior specification of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) issued notebooks, the cost of leasing, particularly for Macs, and the impact of repair costs to individual teachers and Principal Class Officers (PCO) in recent notebook rollouts.

Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- The cost of leasing a notebook is a financial impost on teachers and PCOs
- The current \$1,196 cost of leasing an end of model, Apple Mac notebook over four years.
- Repair costs are now to be borne by teachers and PCOs
- The recent rollout of Apple and Lenova notebooks delivered computers that are riddled with inferior specifications relating to power, clarity, connectivity, memory and software
- There is a lack of professional training to assist teachers and PCOs in using and caring for notebooks
- Diminishing Notebooks for Teachers and Principals Program funding support by the DEECD
- Bluetooth is unavailable with Lenovo notebook computers making them unfit for use with Interactive Whiteboards in classrooms
- Notebooks fail to meet real Principal Class and teacher needs
- Recently allocated notebooks to primary teachers and PCOs have been configured for secondary schools

VPA Position

The VPA advocates for:

- The DEECD to provide significant subsidy for future Notebooks for Teachers and Principals Program rollouts
- Repair costs to be covered by the lease agreement
- Teachers and PCOs provided with the option of the latest notebook models that feature Bluetooth and have sufficient power, memory and software, as well as being capable of upgrades as are necessary
- The option of an Apple iPad is added to the Notebooks for Teachers and Principals leasing program
- The DEECD to provide appropriate professional development for teachers and PCOs involved in the program, from the time the notebooks are issued
- Provision of sufficient TSSP support to ensure that the notebook computers remain appropriately operable.