



# 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

### Out of School Hours Care

With the new legislative framework for both the state and federal governments, the requirements to run Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and holiday programs are considerably greater. The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) is concerned with this impact on Victorian government primary schools and in particular smaller schools.

#### **Purpose**

The VPA strongly recommends that the state and federal governments provide resourcing support for smaller schools to retain the viability of OSHC programs.

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

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- The process involved in accreditation and in running OSHC is onerous, time-consuming and repetitious
- There are excessive demands due to new State and Commonwealth regulations which are compounded in smaller schools
- There has been a setback for schools that have less than 24 students each night. NB. Many schools are running at a loss and are consequently supplementing OSHC programs from their SRPs'
- The National Quality Framework legislation involves a disproportionate amount of Principals' time to implement the required demands if he/she is to be an instructional leader for their community
- Regulations are constricting programs because of accreditation, compliance, recovering debts from parents, risk management and red tape
- Lack of qualified staff and a high staff turnover is problematic
- There are growing compliance concerns regarding Occupational Health and Safety and Emergency Management Procedures
- 'Commercial' child care school based care has imposed additional regulations
- Provision of OSHC is a community need, but there is not adequate recognition in resourcing in the SRP to address this need and provision
- Besides schools accessing SRP funds to supplement their OSHC programs, some schools are using community raised funds to subsidise their programs
- The lack of OSHC works against the viability of government schools with regard to parent choice of schools, particularly in rural areas

#### **VPA Position**

The VPA advocates for:

- Additional resources to assist primary schools in the implementation of quality OSHC programs
- Increased training for, and availability of qualified staff

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- A single Service Model where the second person required should be given an allowance of \$15,000 within the funding to be on call
  - Outsourcing to be cost effective and provide quality service to students and schools
  - Regular VPA forums on OHSC to be arranged
  - Provision of consultancy assistance to complete required paperwork
  - Region and Community Child Care have a specified person to be available to give assistance and additional support to run programs and increase economic viability in smaller schools
  - A significant increase in funding to address the complexity of travel, as it is difficult to transport students to different venues