



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

VRQA Compliance Requirements

Purpose

Schools have found that VRQA compliance processes have been communicated in a belated and confusing manner. This has placed added pressure and at times unrealistic timelines to complete compliance tasks. The red tape for schools has increased measurably over two years. The VPA calls for DEECD to provide clarity on VRQA compliance requirements in a timely and sensible manner and to reduce the burden on individual schools.

Background to the VPA Position

The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

- Annual Report and Review requirements place additional demands on principals, with small school principals particularly affected.
- Timelines to complete reporting requirements are unrealistic; the collaborative consultation process with school communities takes time and informed school council endorsement is unrealistic.
- The use of exemplars is questionable - these should be called examples.
- There appears to be unnecessary compliance functions being added by DEECD which causes additional burden of red tape in schools.

VPA Position

The VPA advocates for:

- Recognition of the varying stages schools are at in their processes. Small schools principals have differing work demands and this should be reflected in policy.
- VRQA reporting requirements to be linked to School Reviews and not the Annual Report as unnecessary stress is caused by double handling.
- If there are government regulations for all government schools then it is repetitious to expect school to duplicate them in their school policies.
- A simple checklist process to be put in place.
- Generic policies to be provided by the DEECD that give schools the capacity to adjust them for local contexts.
- Clarification of contacts in the DEECD who could provide assistance.