



Victorian Principals Association

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VPA Media Release

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Tough New Entry Standards for Initial Teacher Education

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) strongly supports today's announcement by the Hon. James Merlino, Minister for Education that the Victorian state government will introduce new entry standards for students wishing to enrol in teaching courses at university.

The VPA has been advocating raising the quality of initial teacher education for a number of years, including promoting three criteria for entry into a teaching course;

1. Pre-entry interview for suitability.
2. ATAR score: Pre-service training institutions to mandate a minimum entry score for Bachelor of Education courses.
3. A pre-entry exam to check literacy and numeracy standard.

By 2019 the Victorian Government will require a minimum ATAR of 70 to enrol in an undergraduate teaching course. A pre-entry exam will also be compulsory before being accepted into university teaching courses.

"We welcome this announcement by the government as it is imperative that there be a more rigorous and consistent approach to teacher training in Victoria," said Gabrielle Leigh, President of the VPA.

"The idea of basing entry on both academic performance and personal attributes suitable for teaching is a positive step in teacher training. The addition of an interview backed by the profession would further support a high quality process into the future."

"Congratulations to Minister Merlino for ensuring our future teachers are of the highest standard" said Ms Leigh.

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