



Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

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MEM 20260

Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I am pleased to provide this submission to the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee's *Teaching and learning – maximising our investment in Australian schools* inquiry.

The Victorian Government, with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, is committed to lifting the performance of Victoria's students into the global top tier in the next decade. In November 2012, the Victorian Government released the *Towards Victoria as a Learning Community* statement, which confirms the Government's vision for school education reform. Schools and school leaders will be placed at the centre of efforts to drive school improvement in Victoria.

Of particular relevance to the Committee's inquiry, the statement includes a commitment to review school governance arrangements to support greater flexibility and effectiveness; a commitment to strengthen partnerships between schools, families, business and the broader community; and a commitment to engage families more effectively in their child's learning through improved school reporting arrangements.

In June of this year, the *New Directions for school leadership and the teaching profession* discussion paper was released. To reach the top tier, the Department understands that improving teacher quality will have the greatest influence on student learning and outcomes. Action to address this is required on three fronts: attracting high-quality candidates and preparing them for teaching; creating a high performing profession; and providing strong direction and support for school leaders.

Our consultation with principals, teachers, peak bodies, universities, businesses, education stakeholders and the general public revealed broad support for both the vision of the statement and the need to undertake bold reforms. In light of the feedback received, the Victorian Government will outline the actions to be implemented in Victoria to lift teacher and leadership quality and help shift student performance. I would be pleased to provide the Committee with a further update on this once it is finalised.



The Victorian Government has made languages education a priority given that life and work in the twenty-first century is characterised by global mobility, interconnection and exchange.

The Victorian Government's Vision for Languages Education affirms the approach to languages education in the long-term, in order to meet the commitment to introduce compulsory languages education for all government school students from Prep to Year 10 by 2025. Key to this will be increasing the number of high quality languages teachers. The Government wants all students to be given the opportunity to learn a language and to achieve proficiency by providing a diverse and effective languages education program.

Copies of *Towards Victoria as a Learning Community*, the *New Directions for school leadership and the teaching profession* discussion paper, and *The Victorian Government's Vision for Languages Education*, are enclosed for the Committee's reference.

I wish the Committee well in its deliberations on these important matters.

Yours sincerely

Richard Bolt
Secretary

25/11/2012

Encl.