



Weekly Briefing For Member Schools

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[Victorian Government Relaxes Planning Processes for Schools](#)

The Victorian Minister for Planning has announced that non-government schools will be able to circumvent current planning processes for buildings funded under the Australian Government's *Building the Education Revolution Program*.

[Victorian Government to Pilot Performance-Based Pay for Teachers](#)

The Age reports that the Victorian Government will pilot a merit-based salary scheme for government school teachers in 2010.

[Victorian Government Signs Agreement to Increase Salaries for Kindergarten Teachers](#)

The Victorian Government has signed a Heads of Agreement that will bring kindergarten and pre-school teachers salaries into line with government school teachers by 2012.

[Australian Government to Introduce Learning Framework for Childcare Centres](#)

The Australian Government intends to introduce its *Early Years Learning Framework* by July 2009.

[Head of New South Wales Board of Studies Calls for an Explicit Curriculum Syllabus](#)

The new head of the New South Wales Board of Studies has argued that a systematic course of study with an explicit curriculum is the only way to ensure that all students received the same opportunities.

[Parliamentary News](#)

Forthcoming sitting dates for the Victorian and Australian Parliaments.

[Seminars for the week beginning 25 May 2009](#)

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Victorian Government Relaxes Planning Processes for Schools

Media Release, The Hon Justin Madden MLC, 20/05/09; The Age, Jason Dowling, 21/05/09; Herald Sun, 21/05/09

The Victorian Minister for Planning, The Hon Justin Madden MLC, has announced that the Victorian Government will streamline planning laws for non-government school capital projects funded through the Australian Government's *Building the Education Revolution Program* (BER). Minister Madden stated that the changes would ensure that schools could meet the tight construction timelines. He indicated that 'without these measures, some non-government school projects would have taken up to 18 months in the normal planning system preventing them from accessing Commonwealth funding.' Under the changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions, the Minister for Planning will become the responsible authority for BER projects and schools would not be required to undertake a public notification or review process. Instead, members of the public would be given a short time to raise any concerns with their local council and any objections would be referred to Minister Madden and the Department of Planning and Community Development for consideration. Minister Madden indicated that the planning law changes would expire on 30 June 2012. Government schools are already exempt from planning processes. Go to www.dpcd.vic.gov.au for further information about the changes.

Victorian Government to Pilot Performance-Based Pay for Teachers

The Age, Farrah Tomazin, 21/05/09

The Age has claimed that the Victorian Government intends to introduce a pilot merit-based pay scheme for government school teachers in 2010. As part of a push to attract more people into the profession, *The Age* has claimed that the pilot will provide bonus payments to teachers and schools able to increase student performance across a range of benchmarks, including literacy and numeracy results, attendance rates and measures of student wellbeing. The Victorian Minister for Education, The Hon Bronwyn Pike MLA, indicated that the Victorian Government was 'keen to introduce further incentives for teachers to do even more...to give [children] the best start in life through education', but refused to comment directly on the proposal. The President of the Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals, Mr Brian Burgess, argued that 'there is no jurisdiction in the world where performance pay has made a real difference to student outcomes, so we're very dubious about all this'. The President of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Education Union, Ms Mary Bluett, stated that 'if [the Victorian Government] were going to go down this [performance-based pay] path, it would have been better to take a long-term view, rather than just the quick and easy fix', while the Shadow Minister for Education, The Hon Martin Dixon MLA, argued that performance-based pay was 'a complex issue' and that it should not be rushed 'in a bid for votes'.

Victorian Government Signs Agreement to Increase Salaries for Kindergarten Teachers

Media Release, The Hon Maxine Morand MLA, 18/05/09; The Age, Farrah Tomazin, 19/05/09

The Victorian Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, The Hon Maxine Morand MLA, has announced a Heads of Agreement that will see Victorian kindergarten and early childhood workers achieve pay parity with primary school teachers by 2012. The Heads of Agreement will provide the basis for ongoing, separate enterprise bargaining negotiations between representative union groups, Kindergarten Parents Victoria and the Municipal Association of Victoria as principal parties in the agreement. Under the terms, first-year early childhood teachers will receive the same starting salary as government primary school teachers, with an increase in their commitment hours from 24 hours per week to 25.5 hours per week by 2011. By 2012, it is expected that early childhood and school teachers at the top of the scale would receive the same salary. The agreement represents an immediate 4.9 per cent salary increase, followed by increases of 2.7 per cent per annum for three years, and also allows for access to 14 weeks of paid maternity leave and greater support from early childhood teaching assistants. The finalised agreement would cover both early childhood teachers and assistants and is expected to be signed off by no later than 31 July 2009. Early childhood teachers employed by independent schools are not covered by this Heads of Agreement.

Australian Government to Introduce Learning Framework for Childcare Centres

Sydney Morning Herald, Stephanie Peatling, 21/05/09; The Australian, Natasha Bitá, 22/05/09; Media Release, The Hon Sophie Mirabella MP, 22/05/09

The Australian Government's Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education, The Hon Maxine McKew MP, has announced that all childcare centres will be required to implement baby learning and child development programs by July 2009, to ensure that children are school-ready. While the final version of the Australian Government's Early Years Learning Framework has not yet been released, it is expected to stimulate children and encourage them to be curious, but would not form the basis of a pre-school curriculum. Ms McKew stated that the framework would be linked to a quality-rating system, but did not indicate whether this would be the A to E rating system promised by the Australian Labor Party during the 2007 federal election campaign. The Parliamentary Secretary also indicated that the Government was considering the introduction of mandated staff-child ratios in childcare centres and requirements for all staff to hold appropriate qualifications. In response, the Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Childcare, Mrs Sophie Mirabella MP, argued that 'the emphasis on formal qualifications for absolutely everyone involved in childcare is a little misguided'. She stated that the Coalition 'would simplify the childcare accreditation system, make sure that standards were practical and properly enforced, and focus resources and programs on "at risk" children who need assistance the most'.

Head of New South Wales Board of Studies Calls for an Explicit Curriculum Syllabus

The Australian, Justine Ferrari, 20/05/09

The newly appointed head of the New South Wales Board of Studies, Mr Tom Alegounarias, has argued that the creation of an explicit curriculum syllabus which set out mandatory knowledge in a systematic course of study was the only way to ensure that all students had the same opportunities for learning. Mr Alegounarias, who is also the New South Wales representative on the National Curriculum Board, argued that a specific school syllabus would provide a common reference point for teachers and ensure that all students accessed the same curriculum.

Parliamentary News

The Victorian Parliament (Assembly and Council) rose on Thursday 7 May 2009 and will next sit from Tuesday 2 June 2009 until Thursday 11 June 2009. The Australian Parliament (House of Representatives and Senate) rose on Thursday 14 May 2009. The House of Representatives will sit from Monday 25 May 2009 until Thursday 4 June 2009. During this time, the Senate will not sit, but will consider the Budget Estimates. The Senate will not resume sitting until Monday 15 June 2009.

Seminars for the week beginning 25 May 2009

Day	Seminar Name	Time	Venue
Monday 25/05	Anaphylaxis Management Training	9.00 am – 4.00 pm	Training Centre
Tuesday 26/05	Anaphylaxis Management Training	9.00 am – 4.00 pm	Seminar Room
	The Implications of Family Law	1.30 pm – 4.00 pm	Training Centre
Wednesday 27/05	Telling Tales: Linking Oral & Written Languages	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Training Centre
	AGQTP Assessment	9.30 am – 5.30 pm	Seminar Room
Thursday 28/05	Assessment for LOTE Teachers Middle Years	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Seminar Room
Friday 29/05	Assessment for LOTE Teachers Middle Years	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Seminar Room
	Disability Discrimination in Schools: A legal Perspective	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Training Centre

The Seminar Room is located at 20 Garden Street. The Training Centre and Board Room are located at 30 Garden Street.

Note: The AISV Weekly Briefing is also available on the AISV web site, including back issues. The AISV web site is at <http://www.ais.vic.edu.au>.

To obtain further information on any of the above matters, please contact AISV

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