



Weekly Briefing For Member Schools

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[Victorian School Performance Data to be Published on New State Register](#)

The Victorian Minister for Education has announced that performance information for all Victorian schools will shortly be published online.

[Victorian Independent Schools Undertake Pilot of Performance-Based Pay for Teachers](#)

AISV is conducting a pilot study of performance-based pay for teachers in six independent schools.

[Australian Government Releases Two Reports on Cyberbullying](#)

The Australian Government has launched two reports that suggest that Australian students were under-reporting the extent and impact of cyberbullying.

[National Curriculum Board Chairman Discusses Expansion of the National Curriculum](#)

Professor Barry McGaw has stated that he would consider expanding the national curriculum to include other key learning areas.

[School Repeating Linked to Socioeconomic Status](#)

The *Sunday Herald Sun* has claimed that students from poorer areas of Victoria are more likely to be required to repeat a year at school.

[Board of Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority Announced](#)

It has been confirmed that the current members of the National Curriculum Board will form the board of the new Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

[Parliamentary News](#)

Forthcoming sitting dates for the Victorian and Australian Parliaments.

[Religion, Ethnicity and Citizenship Workshop](#)

The Immigration Museum will host a workshop that will discuss how religion, ethnicity and citizenship can shape us.

[Seminars for the week beginning 8 June 2009](#)

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Victorian School Performance Data to be Published on New State Register

The Age, Farrah Tomazin, 04/06/09

The Victorian Minister for Education, The Hon Bronwyn Pike MLA, has announced that the Victorian Government will shortly introduce a new state register of schools. The online register would publish details of the performance of all Victorian schools in the one place, as well as links to the school's Victorian Certificate of Education and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning data on the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) website. Links will also be provided to each school's website and annual reports. In the longer term, Minister Pike indicated that the school register might link to each school's National Report Card, which would include all of the information that schools are required to provide to the Australian Government, as well as comparisons with 'like schools'. The Minister also indicated that the Victorian Government was hoping to develop 'contextualised value add measures' of student performance which would track the progress of individual students and which would indicate how schools were helping students to progress. Forty government schools will shortly pilot the Victorian Unique Student Identifier project as part of this process. The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) is also expected to introduce a national unique student number by 2011. Finally, Minister Pike announced that the Victorian Government would shortly release an Implementation Paper for the *Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development*, which would outline how Victorian schools would proceed to implement the blueprint. Minister Pike argued that there was a difference between 'simplistic league tables' and 'rich, sophisticated data', claiming that the publication of rich data on the state register would 'make league tables pointless' and announcing that people who opposed calls for greater public access to school performance data were 'naive at best and paternalistic at worst'. She also argued that greater transparency was needed in all schools and that the data should be used to improve, not shame schools that were struggling.

In the formal response to the Minister's address, the Chairman of the National Curriculum Board, Professor Barry McGaw, welcomed the creation of the state register, and argued that any school performance information provided to the public should outline both the value-add to students by the school and the absolute performance of the school. Professor McGaw also expressed concern that the Australian Government had continued to fail to provide Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) data to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that enabled comparisons between government and non-government schools, claiming that in other countries, once student background had been adjusted for, any difference in student performance between government and non-government schools 'completely disappeared'. He also argued that the publication of information on school financial resources and expenditure would enable the public to have a debate on the efficiency of schools, and to determine whether schools with significantly higher expenditure did provide value for money.

Victorian Independent Schools Undertake Pilot of Performance-Based Pay for Teachers

The Age, Farrah Tomazin, 01/06/09

Six Victorian independent schools are participating in a pilot study of performance-based pay for teachers. The pilot, conducted by AISV, will see a small number of teachers in each of the schools judged by a panel of experts against a range of criteria, including their knowledge of the curriculum, their ability to engage students, and their ability to improve students' academic results. Participating teachers will be required to record lessons and to create a portfolio that includes student work samples and assessments, lesson plans and student and parent satisfaction survey data. Mr Rick Tudor, The Headmaster of Trinity Grammar School, Kew, indicated that his school had agreed to participate in the trial in the hope that it would demonstrate what might make teachers worthy of performance-based salary increases.

Australian Government Releases Two Reports on Cyber Bullying

Media Release, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, 01/06/09; The Advertiser, Bruce McDougall, 01/06/09; Courier Mail, Bruce McDougall & Tanya Chilcott, 01/06/09; Daily Telegraph, Bruce McDougall, 01/06/09; Herald Sun, Bruce McDougall & John Masanauskas, 01/06/09; Canberra Times, Emma Macdonald & Emily Sherlock, 02/06/09

The Australian Minister for Education, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, has launched two reports into the incidence of cyber bullying in Australian schools. The *Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study* and the *Behind the Scenes: Insights into the Human Dimension of Covert Bullying* report indicated that one in six students had reported some form of covert bullying but that the prevalence and impact of covert bullying in Australian schools has been under-reported and that cyberbullying had become a serious issue for young people. The studies claimed that bullying and cyberbullying were 'cruel, torturous, ostracising and intimidating' but that many young people failed to report incidents because of fears that they would lose access to communications technology. The research found that covert bullying was more prevalent among girls and among secondary students. The research also claimed that students from government schools were more likely to say that they were being bullied, that cyberbullying was used more by students from non-government schools and that staff in government schools spent more time per week managing bullying incidents. The reports have recommended that guidance be developed for schools to deal with issues of cyberbullying and that the National Safe Schools Framework (NSSF) be reviewed and updated. Minister Gillard indicated that a review of the NSSF was due for completion by mid-2010. Go to www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NationalSafeSchools/Pages/research.aspx to access copies of the two reports. Go to www.cyberbullyingstories.org.au/ for discussion on cyberbullying from students, teachers and parents.

National Curriculum Board Chairman Discusses Expansion of the National Curriculum

The Age, Farrah Tomazin & Dan Harrison, 01/06/09

The Chairman of the National Curriculum Board, Professor Barry McGaw, has indicated that 'it made sense' to expand the nationally consistent curriculum guidelines to include other key learning areas. In addition to the subjects already included in the first two rounds of the national curriculum process, Professor McGaw indicated that economics, business, civics and citizenship, health, physical education, information and communication technology and design and technology could all be considered for future expansions. However, the Chief Executive of the Australian Council for Educational Research, Professor Geoff Masters, warned that the process of expanding the national curriculum should not be rushed. Minister Pike stated that 'Victoria supports all of the key learning areas outlined in the Melbourne declaration being considered in the context of the national curriculum and looks forward to considering the approach that will be taken when ACARA [the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority] provide advice on this to ministers in October'.

School Repeating Linked to Socioeconomic Status

Sunday Herald Sun, Stephen Drill, 31/05/09

Despite little variation between different regions of Victoria, the *Sunday Herald Sun* has claimed that students in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs and in regional areas are more likely to repeat a year level than students in eastern and southern suburbs. In 2008, 5626 government school students repeated a year level, with 24.0 per cent repeating Prep and 16.3 per cent repeating Year 11. The Grampians education region had the highest proportion of students repeating a year, with 1.3 per cent of students held back. The President of the Victorian Association of State School Principals, Mr Brian Burgess, claimed that the data demonstrated that the Victorian Government was overlooking schools in lower socioeconomic areas and that these schools required additional funding. The Victorian Shadow Minister for Education, Mr Martin Dixon MLA, argued that 'from day one struggling schools are behind the average'.

Board of Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority Announced

Media Release, MCEETYA & ACARA, 03/06/09

MCEETYA have announced the membership of the board of the newly-formed Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA's board will consist of the same members of the board of the National Curriculum Board, which ACARA replaces. Professor McGaw will be the Chairman of the ACARA Board, while Mr Tony Mackay will be the deputy chairman. Victoria will be represented by Mr John Firth, the Chief Executive Officer of the VCAA. Independent schools will be represented by Mr Garry Le Duff, the Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia.

Parliamentary News

The Victorian Parliament (Assembly and Council) resumed sitting on Tuesday 2 June 2009 and will rise on Thursday 11 June 2009. The Australian Parliament (House of Representatives and Senate) rose on Thursday 4 June 2009. Both Houses will next sit from Monday 15 June 2009 until Thursday 25 June 2009.

Religion, Ethnicity and Citizenship Workshop

In the lead up to the Parliament of the World's Religions, which will be held in Melbourne in December 2009, the Immigration Museum is hosting a public conversation entitled *Who am I as a citizen? Religion, ethnicity and citizenship*. The conversation will take place between the Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan OAM, the President of the United Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation of Victoria, and Ms Toltu Tufa, a Muslim community worker with the Melbourne East African community and will consider how religion, ethnicity and citizenship shape individuals and society. The meeting will take place on Sunday 14 June 2009 from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm at the Immigration Museum, Old Customs House, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. To register to attend the meeting, contact the Immigration Museum on 13 11 02.

Seminars for the week beginning 8 June 2009

Day	Seminar Name	Time	Venue
Monday 08/06	Queen's Birthday Holiday		
Tuesday 09/06	Authentic Learning- Integrating Pedagogy & ICTs for More Accomplished Schools	9.00 am – 3.30 pm	Training Centre
Wednesday 10/06	HR Managers Network Meeting	2.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Training Centre
Thursday 11/06	Accessing Listening Resources & Using Them	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Seminar Room
	Students Experiencing High Support Needs in Mental Health: Day One	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Training Centre
Friday 12/06	Students Experiencing High Support Needs in Mental Health: Day Two	9.30 am – 3.30 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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