

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

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14 April 2004

Principal
(as addressed)

Dear Colleague

At a recent seminar sponsored by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), the Minister for Education and Training, Lynne Kosky, MP launched the enclosed consultation paper, Victorian Curriculum Reform 2004, A Framework of 'Essential Learning'.

You will recall that the Minister, when launching the *Blueprint for Government Schools*, asked the VCAA to develop a new framework of 'essential learning' for all students within Victorian schools. The enclosed consultation paper was developed by the Board of the VCAA, a cross-sectoral body which includes members from government and non-government schools. The paper is the result of considerable work and most importantly dialogue which has been undertaken throughout Victoria by the VCAA. The paper has significantly benefited from input by educators during the statewide consultations held by the VCAA in March 2004. These have helped to ensure that the paper reflects a valuing of what is already being achieved in Victorian schools. Building on these achievements, the paper outlines the means to a new approach, which emphasises core disciplines, concepts and skills required to ensure that young people leave schooling with a broad range of high-level skills which can be applied in the real world.

We have decided to jointly sign this letter to commend to the profession across all sectors the importance of the consultation paper and the opportunity for feedback. The development of a framework of 'essential learning' is important work for our students and for our profession. The opportunity to build on the strengths of the current Curriculum and Standards Framework (CSF) and to assist schools in the development of curriculum programs which provide students the opportunity to develop deep learning and understanding is an important move forward.

Each of the signatories is committing to working closely with each other in order to maximise the input of teachers, particularly in ensuring teacher feedback assists in the development of the framework of 'essential learning'. Each of us will work collaboratively to ensure that the new framework published by the VCAA resonates clearly with the profession.

We commend the enclosed consultation paper and its challenges to you. We ask that you ensure that responding to it is a high priority in your work. Workshops and discussions

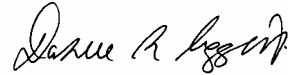
will be organised during Term 2 and we encourage you to participate in these in your region and respond to the consultation questions through the online questionnaire on the VCAA website no later than Friday 25 June 2004.

We are confident that this work will genuinely make a difference to our schools and strengthen our joint capacity to deliver sound programs and outcomes for the Victorian community.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority



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