

Friday 31 May 2019

Education Updates

Victorian Budget Invests \$402 Million in Capital Works for Non-Government Schools

The Victorian Budget 2019/20 has allocated \$2.8 billion to schools, including more than \$400 million for infrastructure at non-government schools. [Click here to read more...](#)

Tehan Reappointed to Education in Morrison's New Ministry

Independent Schools Victoria Chief Executive, Ms Michelle Green, has congratulated Dan Tehan on his re-appointment as Federal Minister for Education, saying that he has 'established strong and cooperative relationships with all school sectors' since he assumed the role last August. [Click here to read more...](#)

Thousands Re-Sit Tests Following NAPLAN Online Disconnects

Thousands of students across the county re-sat National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy tests this week, after connectivity issues prevented them from completing the assessments earlier in the month. [Click here to read more...](#)

International Baccalaureate ATARs to be Reduced – VTAC

Approximately 15 percent of Victorian International Baccalaureate students will receive lower Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks from 2021, according to report in *The Age*. [Click here to read more...](#)

Indigenous Language Song Competition

The national broadcaster is calling on schools to work with their local Indigenous community to translate a song, Marrin Gamu, into the first language of their area, and record students singing it. [Click here to read more...](#)

Please visit the Independent Schools Victoria website for seminars for [June 2019](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Dialogue](#).

Would you like to read the briefing every week? [Sign up here](#).

Victorian Budget Invests \$402 Million in Capital Works for Non-Government Schools

The [Victorian Budget 2019/20](#) has allocated \$2.8 billion to schools, including more than \$400 million for infrastructure at non-government schools, and \$1 billion to early childhood education.

The provision of capital works funding for non-government schools fulfils a promise made before the Victorian election (see [Weekly Briefing 27 /2018](#)).

When the announcement was made, Independent Schools Victoria Chief Executive, [Ms Michelle Green said](#) that the funding would ensure that Independent schools could help 'meet student demand in growth areas, as well as supporting existing schools to upgrade their facilities'.

Victorian Education Minister [James Merlino said](#) that the school funding would support the construction of 13 new government schools to open in 2021, and four to open in 2022. More than 100 government schools will receive major upgrades, and 44 will begin planning for refurbishments.

Mr Merlino said that the investment ensures that families can be confident that 'no matter where they choose to send their kids – it'll be a great local school'.

In addition to the capital works funding, the budget provides:

- almost \$180 million for the ongoing removal of asbestos
- almost \$60 million to expand breakfast and lunch programs in government schools
- more than \$20 million for free tampons for girls in government schools
- more than \$7 million for the community language schools.

[Mr Merlino said](#) that the \$880 million of the \$1 billion in funding for early childhood education would support the rollout of three-year-old Kindergarten from 2020, starting in six regional local government areas: Buloke, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, South Gippsland, Strathbogie and Yarriambiack.

He said that the program would then be extended across the state, providing access to at least five hours per week of three-year-old kindergarten to children across the state by 2022.

- Kids winners as \$2.8bn pledged for school. Rebecca Urban, *The Australian*, 28 May 2019
- Subsidised kindy for three-year-olds. Rebecca Urban, *The Australian*, 28 May 2019

Tehan Reappointed to Education in Morrison's New Ministry

Independent Schools Victoria Chief Executive, [Ms Michelle Green, has congratulated](#) Mr Tehan on his re-appointment as Federal Minister for Education, saying that he has 'established strong and cooperative relationships with all school sectors' since he assumed the role last August.

Ms Green said that she looked forward to working with Mr Tehan and his department on the issues facing Independent schools, including 'continuing the detailed technical discussions currently underway on implementing fair, predictable and stable funding arrangements for non-government schools'.

The [Independent Schools Council of Australia](#), [National Catholic Education Commission](#), and the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) also welcomed the re-appointment.

The Acting Executive Director at the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV), Mr Jim Miles, said that Mr Tehan's 'proactive stance' had gone a long way to repairing the Catholic sector's 'badly frayed' trust in the Coalition Government.

[Mr Tehan said](#) that he would ensure that the education policies the Coalition took to the election, including a 'voluntary phonics health check for every Year 1 student, improving teacher quality and an expansion of the successful Regional Study Hubs program' were implemented.

Other education related appointments in Prime Minister [Scott Morrison's new ministry](#) include the Member for Swan, Steve Irons, as Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships, and Senator Richard Colbeck as Minister for Youth.

[Mr Morrison said](#) that Greg Hunt, who will continue as Health Minister, would 'lead the charge' on mental health, with a focus on youth suicide. He said that in the coming months, Mr Hunt would lead an 'implementation forum of the nation's experts to deliver on the government's youth and Indigenous mental health initiatives'.

Attorney-General [Christian Porter said](#) that he would continue to focus on implementing the government's reforms, including the establishment of the new Commonwealth Integrity Commission and the religious discriminations bill to protect religious freedoms.

- Catholic education welcomes return of Minister Tehan. CECV Media Release, 26 May 2019
- APPA welcomes the reappointment of Minister Tehan. APPA Media Release, 27 May 2019
- Scott Morrison's new ministry — who is in and who has moved, Dan Conifer and Henry Belot, *ABC News* (online), 27 May 2019
- Infographic: who's who in the new Morrison ministry. Emil Jeyaratnam, Justin Bergman and Shelley Hepworth, *The Conversation*, 29 May 2019

Thousands Re-Sit Tests Following NAPLAN Online Disconnects

Thousands of students across the country re-sat National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests this week, after connectivity issues prevented them from completing the assessments earlier in the month (see [Weekly Briefing 13/2019](#)).

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority ([ACARA](#)) [said](#) that it expected 'up to 15000 students across Australia to re-sit the affected test in an online format, with a similar number to re-sit the tests on paper'.

ACARA advised that investigations were underway into the cause of the original connectivity issue, but said there were no connectivity issues reported by students re-sitting the tests. Some students did encounter issues 'resetting the timer' however, and had to revert to pen and paper testing.

The *Australian Financial Review* reported that ACARA Chief Executive David deCarvalho defended online testing, saying that while ACARA didn't want schools and students to face the sort of disruptions seen on the initial day of testing 'and we regret that it occurred', people don't stop using mobile phones 'just because we get the occasional drop-out, despite the frustration that causes'.

Former ACARA chairman, Professor Barry McGaw, told the paper that the disruptions were due to:

... technical issues in delivery, not issues with the concept of the test or even technical issues with the test. It is education departments which provide the bandwidth. Kids are busily working away on the test and suddenly the bandwidth disappears.

- NAPLAN chiefs stand by roll out. Robert Bolton, *Australian Financial Review*, 27 May 2019

International Baccalaureate ATARs to Change

Approximately 15 percent of Victorian International Baccalaureate (IB) students will receive lower Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATARs) from 2021, but some will go up, according to a report in *The Age*.

The article said that the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) advised that due to changes in how IB scores are converted to ATAR, about 15 per cent of students (mostly those who are high achieving) will receive a lower ATAR. Approximately 60 per cent of IB students will see no change, and a quarter of them could see their results improve.

A VTAC spokesman told the paper that the current conversion system 'is as fair as it could be based on the results data available, however the new schedule should be fairer for all students'.

The changes will affect students looking for tertiary placements in 2022.

Indigenous Language Song Competition

The [national broadcaster is calling](#) on schools to work with their local Indigenous community to translate a song, *Marrin Gamu*, into the first language of their area, and record students singing it.

[First Languages Australia](#) developed the song for primary school children and teachers to promote the diversity and beauty of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. It is designed for translation into local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages across Australia.

Head of ABC Education, Annabel Astbury, said the ABC was proud to work with First Languages Australia to help schools 'build connections with local Indigenous communities, as part of the ABC's commitment to building greater understanding of and respect for our First Peoples'.

First Languages Australia Coordinator, Faith Baisden, said:

There are hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait languages and a wealth of cultural knowledge is held within each one. Discussions about Australia's first languages can help create a society that knows and respects the history and cultures of this land.

Entries close Friday 30 August 2019. For information, or to enter, visit the [ABC Education website](#).