

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Government Response - Inquiry into the Effects of Television and Multimedia on Education in Victoria

Recommendation	Government Response
<p>Recommendation 2.1 (Page 31)</p> <p>That the Department of Education and Training, in collaboration with other education systems, undertake an annual survey of multimedia usage among students. The results of the annual survey should be disseminated to schools, teachers and education faculties, to facilitate better educational planning and curriculum development and implementation.</p>	<p>The Government supports the intent of this recommendation.</p> <p>The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs' ICT in Schools Taskforce regularly works with states to identify research data that is considered to be of value to jurisdictions, and it was agreed that multimedia use by Australian students can be captured from multiple sources including Australian Bureau of Statistics data. The Department is developing an online survey tool to measure student use of ICT in learning over the next 12 months. This will enable schools to baseline student ICT capability, access and use for the purpose of curriculum development and implementation.</p> <p>Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Nielsen on television access and computer use is available for use in curriculum planning and implementation where this information is required.</p> <p>The Department will provide reports on a range of indicators of student use of multimedia back to the broader education community to facilitate better educational planning.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4.1 (Page 80)</p> <p>That the Department of Education and Training establish a dedicated departmental liaison unit that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitors and reports to key stakeholders on emerging trends in the use of multimedia and concerns about cyber safety; and • advises schools, teachers and parents about internet safety and the effective use of internet filtering software. 	<p>The Government supports the intent of the recommendation to monitor and report to key stakeholders on emerging trends in the use of multimedia and concerns about cyber safety and to advise schools, teachers and parents about internet safety and the effective use of internet filtering software.</p> <p>The Department views cyber safety in the broader sense of teaching and learning and sees value in managing the debate and tension between security and access across the Department.</p> <p>Work already underway across the Department includes the development of policy</p>

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	<p>advice and materials for schools. Work will continue in the development of advice and tools for schools over the coming 12 months. Examples of current work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Victorian Education Channel is involved in the identification of safe content and practice by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ quality assuring safe Internet sites for teachers and students;◦ monitoring trends in the access to multimedia and new technologies available on the Internet;◦ working with Internet services on behalf of schools in all areas of student safety, including the effective use of Internet filtering software;◦ delivering professional development sessions focussing on Internet safety to teachers and principals; and◦ developing the content for the Website Toolkit on "Protecting Student Safety".• The Department's Student Wellbeing Unit has developed content on cyber bullying in their "Safe Schools are Effective Schools" policy.• The ICT Capabilities Survey Tool, developed by the Department's Innovations Branch devotes a stream entitled ICT Ethics to address ethical, safe, legal and effective use of ICT.• In addition, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority is currently working with the Department's eLearning Unit to publish units of work and discrete learning activities that support the standards of the ICT domain within the Victorian Essential Learning Standards that focus on cyber safety and the effective use of the Internet.• DVC notes that the Government's popular youth portal, <i>youthcentral</i>, can also play an important role in engaging students on internet safety issues and to provide access to relevant information and resources.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department for Victorian Communities will continue to work with the Department of Education on ways to improve access to computers and the internet for Victorians who need it most. Over a number of years, school and other community facilities have been used for internet training and as sites for public internet access as part of the Government's <i>Connecting Communities: the second wave</i>. Providing support for disadvantaged Victorians, including students and their families will continue to be the primary focus of this work.
<p>Recommendation 4.2 (Page 81)</p> <p>That the Department of Education and Training begin as a matter of priority, a sustained cyber safety campaign, focussing on students and parents. This campaign should utilise the existing resources developed by governments and other agencies, using schools as the primary conduit for communication with parents and families to disseminate these materials. The campaign should provide advice and resources for schools to effectively deliver the cyber safety message to parents and should be supported by: the inclusion of 'cyber safety at home' advice; and resources developed specifically for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation as part of the ongoing effective integration of ICT for teaching and learning.</p> <p>The existing Department of Education campaign on student Internet safety is supported by a number of existing services and resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Website Toolkit, which gives recommendations for safe practices on the Internet for schools and allows for updates on new technologies and safety implications for their use; the Victorian Education Channel, which would continue to create a location that is as safe as possible for students and teachers to use on the Web with thousands of quality assured resources; providing practical resources and lessons for teachers to develop their awareness and planning for safe Internet access in class lessons; and continuing to liaise with other groups in the education industry who have interest in this matter. <p>The Department will continue to liaise and build on strategic educational partnerships with key stakeholders to ensure that existing resources are utilised by schools.</p> <p>The Government supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4.3 (Page 81)</p> <p>That the Department of Education and Training review and update its cyber safety Website Toolkit on a continuous basis, to ensure it remains relevant in the context of a rapidly evolving multimedia landscape.</p>	<p>The Department of Education will ensure routine and appropriate updating of the Website Toolkit to reflect new technologies, practices and issues.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 4.4 (Page 81) That the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority include cyber safety as a core component at each level of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation in principle pending further consideration.</p> <p>The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority will monitor the standards for all of the domains as part of the continuous improvement process.</p> <p>Currently within the ICT domain of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards there are three dimensions, one of which is 'ICT for communicating'. A key focus of this dimension is the secure and safe use of contemporary communications tools through the application of protocols that respect intended audiences. From level 2, students explore contemporary ways of communicating ideas and information and are required to 'locate and retrieve relevant information from a variety of sources.' From Level 3 through to the Level 6, there are specific standards relating to the safe exchange of electronic material, such as '(students) evaluate the merits of contemporary communication tools, taking into account their security, ease of use, speed of communication and impact on individuals.'</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.1 (Page 100) That the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority monitor the success of the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards in teaching students effective research, analysis and evaluation skills.</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority will monitor the standards for all domains. This will involve acquiring data from a range of sources and be part of a strategy for the evaluation of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2 (Page 111) That Multimedia Victoria, in consultation with the Department of Education and Training, develop protocols for facilitating greater Australian industry involvement in the provision of multimedia in the classroom.</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The Department of Education is already working effectively with national and international industries to provide learning and teaching opportunities with multimedia in the classroom. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancement of the Kahootz multimedia authoring package being developed by the Australian Children's Television Foundation which is being funded, trialled and evaluated by the Department of Education; • contribution by the government to the development of a multi-million dollar repository of digital learning objects which are available to all schools as part of The Learning Federation initiative. Most, if not all, of these items are

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	<p>developed by Australian companies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of targeted professional learning through partnerships with Microsoft and Intel, which are customised for teachers in Victoria. <p>Multimedia Victoria will assist the Department of Education to develop a strategy for facilitating the development of partnerships between the Victorian ICT industry and Victorian schools. Multimedia Victoria will seek to engage the eLearning Industry Association of Victoria in this endeavour.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6.1 (Page 131)</p> <p>That the Department of Education and Training implement strategies to reduce cost, technical and copyright constraints that hinder access to digital resources for many Victorian students and teachers.</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation.</p> <p>There is currently a range of activities being undertaken the Department of Education to further this agenda, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005 the Government committed \$89.3m to provide broadband communications to all government schools, enabling high speed online access for students and teachers to digital resources and learning support tools. Non-government schools also have access to broadband connections at the special rate achieved under the Government's Telecommunications Procurement and Management Strategy. • The Government is a partner in a \$125m national project, The Learning Federation, which is developing a pool of high quality digital learning resources which are available under license and at no cost to students in all Australian schools. • A single Internet Service Provider tender at a whole-of-government level is seeking to rationalise internet service provision to secure savings for schools. • In 2006 the Government committed \$60m to develop the Ultranet system which will allow students and teachers to access these and other resources in a secure online environment. This will enable the use of both locally produced and licensed materials in a manner which promotes collaboration

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	<p>and maximises the benefits of our investment in learning content while protecting copyright.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Education is working with other education authorities nationally to implement "Smart Copying" strategies aimed at increasing access by schools to copyright materials and decreasing copyright licence fees. Schools will be informed about sources of materials (such as Creative Commons, AShareNet and from education and government authorities) through online information and training. • A research project is underway involving the Department of Education and Multimedia Victoria to identify ways of improving access to publicly funded educational content produced by cultural, scientific and academic organisations such as galleries, museums, libraries, universities, the ABC and CSIRO. • In addition, the Department of Education's Software for Education Program provides access to software titles widely used in Victorian educational institutions at significantly reduced prices.
<p>Recommendation 6.2 (Page 138)</p> <p>That the Department of Education and Training and Multimedia Victoria, in collaboration with non-government education systems and authorities, support the rapid implementation of appropriate learning platforms in all Victorian schools.</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation in principle pending further consideration.</p> <p>The Department of Education will build and deploy a new information and communication (ICT) system called the Ultranet in all government schools. The Ultranet will help to improve student learning, support the work of teachers and enable the Department to better support Victorian government schools. The Ultranet has not been funded for implementation in the non-government sector. Through the Ultranet project, a single learning platform will be available and accessible to all government schools.</p> <p>Multimedia Victoria recognises the benefits for all Victorian students and for Victorian e-Learning companies/industry from the broader adoption of learning platforms. Multimedia Victoria will assist the Department of Education in</p>

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	collaboration with others, to facilitate the implementation of learning platforms in all Victorian schools.
Recommendation 6.3 (Page 149) That the Victorian Government support the principle of a national children's digital television channel to promote greater educational television content and more opportunities to showcase multimedia content produced by Victorian students.	The Government supports this recommendation in principle. The Department of Education, Multimedia Victoria and the Australian Children's Television Foundation support the promotion of greater educational television content and the provision of opportunities to showcase multimedia content created by students and for students in a variety of forums, including, but not limited to, television.
Recommendation 7.1 (Page 176) That the Department of Education and Training investigate and encourage community education models that facilitate greater student, parent and community access to computer and multimedia resources after school hours. The particular aim should be to help provide more equitable access to computers and the internet for disadvantaged students.	The Government supports this recommendation in principle pending further consideration.
Recommendation 7.2 (Page 183) That the Department of Education and Training develop a repository of online case studies of best practice to assist schools to make decisions about ICT infrastructure and equipment.	The Government supports this recommendation. The Department of Education is actively collecting digital resources to demonstrate the potential of ICT for effective learning and teaching supported by infrastructure and resources and will continue to investigate repositories to ensure ready access by schools. The Department currently has a range of panel arrangements that all Victorian government schools can access. Arrangements are in place for the procurement of personal computers, notebooks, leasing of computer equipment, printers and a range of discounted software. In future, panels are being established to provide whole-of-government pricing on Interactive Whiteboards and Internet Service Provision.