

Government response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into career advice activities in Victorian schools

The Victorian Government welcomes the report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into career advice activities in Victorian schools and would like to acknowledge and thank the Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee members, and all the stakeholders who participated in the Inquiry.

The Committee received 91 submissions, 485 valid responses from their online survey and held public hearings over four days (three in Melbourne and one in Mildura) between February and May 2018.

The Department of Education and Training (the Department) provided a submission to the Inquiry on 21 January 2018 and appeared at the public hearing on 26 April 2018. The Committee tabled its final report on 22 August 2018.

The Committee's report made 46 recommendations, which collectively outline a compelling argument for the need to reform career education in Victorian schools to ensure that all students are equipped to thrive beyond school and throughout their lives. The Victorian Government supports in full or supports in principle all 46 recommendations made by the Committee.

Preparing for the future is the shared responsibility of schools, families, business, TAFEs, universities and the broader community. The Victorian Government is committed to continuing to work closely with all partners to ensure that all students have access to world-class career education and pathways, including excellent information and advice, deep learning experiences and real-world opportunities.

We know that career education is one of the key building blocks for lifelong success. We want to ensure students are confident, capable and can successfully manage their careers by:

- understanding their interests, strengths and aspirations
- exploring how jobs and careers are changing, what work looks and feels like, and the range of opportunities available to them
- identifying the subjects and qualifications that suit them best and reflect industry needs, to take them beyond school to TAFE, university or meaningful employment.

From 2019, the Department will implement a suite of reforms that respond directly to the report's recommendations. These reforms are inclusive of a record investment of \$109 million over four years, and \$26.7 million ongoing announced in the May 2018 Budget to transform career education.

A whole-school approach to career development

The Department has commissioned the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority to develop a comprehensive suite of resources to support teachers when designing and implementing career education teaching and learning programs linked to the Victorian Curriculum.

These resources will be available in 2019 and will show the coverage of career content across the curriculum and how a progression of learning can be catered for through the development of a whole school approach to career education in the classroom. The Department will provide professional learning to support the delivery of these resources across schools.

From 2019, government schools will also be encouraged to send students' Career Action Plans home with school reports to strengthen parental engagement with the career education of their children.

Improving quality and access to career development services

From Term 1 2019, government schools will have access to the following new resources and services:

- Career Self-Exploration Workshops – All Year 7 and 8 students will participate in Career Self-Exploration Workshops to better understand their interests, strengths, skills, values and aspirations and the world of work. This will include engagement in career-focused classroom activities and encounters with employers and industry.
- Career Planning Service – All Year 9 students will have access to a Career Diagnostic Tool with follow-up one-on-one career counselling and analysis of the diagnostic assessment from qualified and accredited career practitioners, which will inform the development of a Career Action Plan.
- Careers e-Portfolio – All Year 9 students will have access to the Careers e-Portfolio, an online resource to support students to capture their career goals and plans, share their skills, experiences and accomplishments and keep all the information they need to complete their Career Action Plans. From 2020, the Careers e-Portfolio will be made available to all government school students in Years 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12.

From 2019, Managed Individual Pathways (MIPs) will be expanded, refocused and renamed as Career Education Funding (CEF). This funding will be provided as a separate line in the Student Resource Package and will help government secondary schools implement a broader range of career education activities for all students from Year 7, and ensure all students in Years 10 to 12 continue to receive course and career counselling and build detailed Career Action Plans.

The Department will conduct an evaluation of the \$109 million investment in career education over the next four years. This will include assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the reform initiatives and resources for students and families, opportunities for improvements, and how to sustain and spread good practice across all Victorian government schools.

In addition, the Department will:

- consider opportunities for enhanced data collection to assess student satisfaction with career education services at their school
- investigate how linked data can be used to track, analyse and report on student destinations
- support government schools to more effectively plan their career education programs and include career education within their annual and strategic planning
- consider opportunities for better supporting government schools to spend their career education funding on career education services.

Ensuring qualified practitioners deliver career development services

The Department recognises the importance of ensuring that career practitioners are professionally qualified to deliver high-quality career education in schools and is providing funding from 2019 to 2022 to support over 400 career practitioners in Victorian government secondary schools to complete the Graduate Certificate in Career Development/Education.

In addition, the Department will:

- encourage career practitioners in schools to join a member association of the Career Industry Council of Australia
- consider ways costs can be covered for regional career practitioners to attend professional learning, as well as innovative online models for professional learning delivery.

Increasing students' workplace exposure

\$49.8 million is being invested in Head Start, a new model for apprenticeships and traineeships where school students spend more time doing paid, on-the-job training, developing the skills industry and employers' value and helping students to get the best start in their career.

Head Start will deliver an estimated 1,700 apprenticeships and traineeships in ten locations in over 100 secondary schools across Victoria over the next four years, starting from 2019. Head Start students will leave school with their VCE or VCAL and significant on-the-job experience that will contribute to or result in completion of an apprenticeship or traineeship. The program is being designed in consultation with industry and the Victorian Skills Commissioner, and offers ongoing support to students throughout their apprenticeship or traineeship.

In 2019, the Department will also bring together schools, training providers, industry and employers to discuss ways to better align schools' career education programs and curriculum with local industry needs through school-industry roundtables across Victoria. These discussions will consider opportunities for taster and industry immersion days.

In addition, the Department will:

- continue to work with key partners, including the Victorian Skills Commissioner and the VCAA, to develop resources which provide students with contemporary and high-quality information about real life workplaces and employment opportunities in local industries
- investigate expanding the current Structured Workplace Learning portal to include work experience opportunities from 2020 onwards, and will consider ways to encourage more employers to take on work experience students.

Raising the profile of vocational education and training

The Victorian Government is investing an additional \$25.9 million to enhance vocational pathways by improving school students' access to high quality VET programs.

- Over \$23 million in additional funding (over four years) will be provided to government schools to enable increased purchasing of VET programs. Funding will be allocated to schools on a quarterly basis and paid via the Student Resource Package. To increase the supply of courses that lead to better post-school pathways for students, this funding includes a supplement for government schools that purchase courses on the Skills First list from the TAFE network.
- A Quality Assurance (QA) Framework will also be developed in 2019 to increase the quality, consistency and confidence in the provision of VET to secondary schools. The introduction of the QA Framework will ensure the delivery of relevant and consistent VET that provides genuine post-school pathways for students.
- An online VET Portal will be established to provide consistent information to secondary schools on training providers who have met quality assurance criteria. The portal will provide a single source of information to enable schools to compare training providers and make more informed decisions when purchasing VET.

Addressing the career development needs of students in regional areas, and students experiencing disadvantage

Students' awareness of careers opportunities and pathways are developed through experiencing and engaging with industry and the world of work. It also helps to better align students' aspirations with

industry needs. This includes ensuring that all students, regardless of background or circumstance, have opportunities to engage with a range of industries and workplaces.

In 2018, the Department:

- commenced delivery of the Industry Immersion Experiences Program where students in Years 7 to 10 in rural, regional and disadvantaged metropolitan schools visit workplaces in the priority growth industry areas to support a realistic understanding world of work and industry needs for a skilled workforce
- developed additional resources to support the career education and work readiness of students with a disability, including teaching and learning resources, professional learning for career practitioners and teachers, and seminars for parents and carers.

In 2019, students from disadvantaged backgrounds will have the opportunity to gain exposure to a wide variety of industries and career pathways through activities such as mentoring by employers, workplace visits and bringing industry into the classroom.