



## STRONGER SCHOOLS

An inclusive education plan for Victoria

# GIVE STUDENTS A GREATER VOICE IN SHAPING THEIR OWN EDUCATION

Students gain life and work skills through increased learning options and involvement in school governance.

Increasing student voice in every school is important for improving student learning, engagement and school governance. It helps students shape their own learning and drive positive change in schools.

Students report they would like a greater range of study and training options. Increasing their learning options and supporting their pathways to employment will support students' engagement and equip them with the skills they need in life and work.

High quality Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) allows students to include vocational studies in their senior secondary certificate, and a chance to obtain practical work experience.

Flexible learning options deliver more tailored education and 'wrap-around' support in alternative settings to mainstream schools.

They help young people with complex needs who need more intensive support to stay engaged.



**Increase student voice in every school to improve student learning, engagement and school governance**

- Develop comprehensive mechanisms in every primary and secondary school to proactively engage students in decisions that affect and matter to them. This should build on the current requirement for students to be elected with full voting rights to every government secondary school council.
- Ensure student leadership and representation on school councils is inclusive, representing all students in the school by engaging and supporting students experiencing disadvantage, or with additional health and development needs, to nominate.

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**Invest in holistic education models so every student has access to a wide range of options including VET, VCAL and flexible learning options.**

- Ensure each of the 17 DET Education Areas has an integrated suite of educational options to meet all students' needs and interests. This includes access to a wide range of VET and VCAL subjects and courses, and high quality flexible learning options.
- Support more schools to provide VET and VCAL subjects and promote them as valuable pathways to employment. The new Head Start apprenticeships and traineeships, (supporting up to 1,700 teenagers in 100 secondary schools to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship while finishing high school<sup>31</sup>) should be trialled and evaluated for expansion.
- Work with the community sector and schools to develop flexible learning options, in mainstream schools and community settings well connected to schools.
- Keep funding Tech Schools across regional areas, to connect students to the skills and jobs of the future.<sup>32</sup>
- Enhance secondary vocational pathways by maintaining funding for a Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) Quality Assurance Framework to help schools purchase high-quality VETiS, support VETiS program delivery and increase the provision of VETiS by TAFEs. delivery of VETiS programs and increase the provision of VETiS by TAFEs.<sup>33</sup>

31. Victorian Government, Victorian Budget 18/19, Getting things done, Budget Paper No. 3, p.45, accessed at <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/budgetfiles201819.budget.vic.gov.au/2018-19+State+Budget+-+Service+Delivery.pdf>

32. Victorian Government, Victorian Budget 18/19, Getting things done, Budget Paper No. 3, p.48, accessed at <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/budgetfiles201819.budget.vic.gov.au/2018-19+State+Budget+-+Service+Delivery.pdf>

33. Victorian Government, Victorian Budget 18/19, Getting things done, Budget Paper No. 3, p.44, accessed at <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/budgetfiles201819.budget.vic.gov.au/2018-19+State+Budget+-+Service+Delivery.pdf>