



Principal    Curriculum Coordinator    PD Coordinator    AIM Coordinator    P-10 Teacher

# P-10 Supplement

Information about Prep to Year 10 education in Victorian schools

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## CEOs report

Welcome to the 2005 school year! This promises to be an exciting year for teachers of students in Years P-10 as we prepare to introduce the *Victorian Essential Learning Standards* in 2006.

2005 is the year of validation for the new framework which was worked on so hard and so well by many teachers last year. As a result of that work we successfully launched the *Victorian Essential Learning Standards* website which went live in December and which describes the new approach. You can access it at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>. At the same time we sent 75 000 copies of the accompanying booklet *Introducing the Victorian Essential Learning Standards* to schools. This has proved so popular we have printed a second run of 75 000 copies so if you missed out on the booklet last year more are available now in your schools.

During December we briefed almost 3000 principals and teachers on the new approach and we were very pleased by the extremely positive response we received. Principals and teachers have welcomed the new approach which emphasises that curriculum statements must include the personal, social and cross curriculum skills which underpin students' success. Too often in the past our curriculum documents have been silent on these essentials of children's development and learning.

Many teachers have told us that the new approach will support the work they are already doing in linking the teaching of the key learning areas with the applied skills of thinking, communicating and problem solving.

The next step in reforming our curriculum is the release of the standards themselves. The standards will be available online from Friday 4 February. This will be followed by the release of the information on a DVD to all schools later in the term.

A brochure for parents will also be available for schools to distribute this term.

As this is a validation year, we will be working closely with schools. Your feedback and advice is vital to the successful implementation of the Learning Standards. The VCAA will be working closely with the Office of Learning and Teaching in the Department of Education and Training (DE&T), the Catholic Education Commission and independent schools to support schools as they explore how the Learning Standards will work for students. With this in mind, much of our energies at the VCAA will be focused on the role of the new standards in assessment and reporting.

This year we will work together with schools and education sectors to implement an innovative curriculum in 2006.

**Michael White**  
Chief Executive Officer



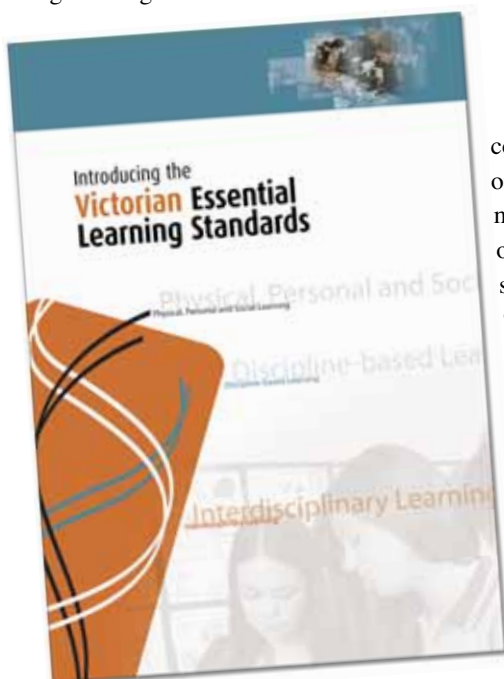
# Victorian Essential Learning Standards

## A new approach to curriculum

During December 2004 the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority released the first stage of the *Victorian Essential Learning Standards* (VELS). This was published online and summarised in an introductory booklet. The first stage included an introduction, and an outline of the rationale and structure of the VELS. The next stage will be released online in February 2005. The website, which will also have a slightly new look, will include the standards across six levels.

## Stage 1

The rationale and structure of the VELS was released in December at <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>>. A booklet, *Introducing the Victorian Essential Learning Standards*, provided a summary of the main features and multiple copies were sent to all schools at the end of the school year for distribution to staff and members of school councils or governing bodies.



The VELS describe the three core and interrelated strands of Physical, Personal and Social Learning; Discipline-based Learning; and Interdisciplinary Learning. These strands include the knowledge, skills and behaviours all students should acquire from Prep to Year 10, organised into learning domains.

The popularity of the introductory booklet and the number of requests from schools for additional copies prompted a second print run. Additional copies were sent to all schools for the beginning of the 2005 school year. An electronic version of the booklet is available to download as a PDF file or view online at <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/introVELS.html>>.

## Stage 2

On 4 February 2005, Stage 2 of the VELS will be released online at <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>>. In addition to the content released as part of Stage 1, the website will include:

- learning focus statements for each domain at each level
- standards for each learning domain
- some sample units that exemplify the approach to integrating the learning strands.

Later in Term 1, the website content will be provided to all schools on a DVD. The DVD will also include materials developed by the Department of Education and Training to support student learning:

- Curriculum Planning Guidelines
- Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12
- Assessment and Reporting Advice
- Knowledge Bank.

The Curriculum and Standards Framework (CSF) remains an important curriculum resource to assist teachers in writing teaching and learning programs. As such, the

CSF will also be included on the DVD together with a consolidated collection of the support materials developed by the VCAA since 2001. These include Annotated Work Samples across the eight key learning areas, Assessment Tasks and Sample Units in information and communications technology (ICT), Years 8-10 English and Mathematics and Vocational Learning.

In response to feedback from schools, the DVD will be designed to enable installation on school networks or stand-alone computers or used as a read-only publication.

During 2005 additional support materials will be developed and made available online. A second DVD which will include the additional material will be distributed to schools later in the year.

## Implementation support

To conclude the round of curriculum leaders' seminars that began in November 2004 to introduce the VELS, the VCAA and the DE&T will conduct a seminar in Mildura on 24 February 2005. A registration form for this seminar is available online at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/crp/seminars.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/crp/seminars.html)

Extra copies of the introductory booklet and a CD-ROM containing an interview with Michael White in which he explains the VELS were distributed to principals at the beginning of the school year. An introductory PowerPoint presentation, with speaker notes to assist principals and curriculum leaders to introduce the VELS to staff, was sent by email 24/1/05. The Powerpoint presentation is available online at <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/downloads/crp/velsintrojan2005.ppt>>.

A brochure is currently being developed that will introduce the VELs to parents. Multiple copies of this brochure in a number of different languages will be provided to schools in Term 1 for distribution to parents or for use at parent information sessions. The information will also be available online to download or view onscreen at <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>>. Schools may use the online text for use in school newsletters and other publications.

## An enhanced website

As part of the VCAA's ongoing consultation with teachers and the wider community, an independent usability test of the new website was undertaken during December. This involved teachers and members of the general public testing the functionality and navigation structure of the website.

As a result of the feedback, we have refined the appearance of the website to address issues such as distractions, under use of navigation options, the need for summaries of content and greater clarity in the labelling of sections. Responses from users to the changes have been positive. Your continued feedback about the site is welcome. Please send your comments to the P-10 Curriculum Unit via email at [curriculum.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:curriculum.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au)



A sample of the new design of the website.

The dynamic nature of the website will enable us to develop and update content quickly and easily throughout the validation year. Updates will be available periodically at <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>>. Schools will be notified by email and through this supplement as updates become available.

## A year of validation

During 2005, schools will become familiar with the VELs and use it as a whole school curriculum planning document to develop teaching, learning and assessment programs for introduction in 2006. During Term 1, the VCAA will seek expressions of interest from schools interested in participating in validation projects and will establish feedback mechanisms through the VELs website.

## Starting Blocks

### An introduction to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

The VCAA is developing Commonwealth Games-inspired curriculum materials for students from Prep to Year 12. These include five innovative resources, the first of which is *Starting Blocks*. This CD-ROM resource and accompanying user guide will be sent to all schools early in Term 1.

*Starting Blocks* is designed as a tool for teachers to bring the excitement of the Games into their classrooms. It provides teachers with over 200 teaching and learning activities that use the 16 sports of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games as their inspiration and cover all eight key learning areas.

#### For teachers

Prep to Year 10 teaching and learning activities are linked directly to CSF learning outcomes, and Years 11 and 12 activities contain links to VCE, VET in Schools and VCAL programs. Activities also identify 'generic skills' based on the values, skills and attributes identified in the VCAA's consultation paper *Victorian Curriculum Reform 2004*. Some examples include the development of communication skills, working in teams, and developing tolerance and understanding.

Each activity includes an introduction, objectives, curriculum links, activity description, teaching notes and resources. Activities include creating a sculpture that reflects attributes of a Commonwealth Games sport, and investigating the technological advances in swim suit design. Students can also write an

athlete's diary; explore the difference between the behaviour of a tennis ball, a shuttle and a rubber ball; or practise a target language devising a series of questions about the Games.

**For students**

*Starting Blocks* provides students with practical information about the Commonwealth Games, from tracing the history of the Games to introducing the Games' mascot Karak. The resource is organised into five sections each containing useful facts and figures as well as some exciting multimedia and activities.

- **The Games** contains information about Melbourne's hosting of the 2006 Commonwealth Games.
- **The Sports** provides information on the 16 sports in the Commonwealth Games, including events for elite athletes with a disability (EAD).
- The **Karak** section will allow students to meet the Games' mascot, a South Eastern red-tailed black cockatoo.

- **Things To Do** contains multimedia interactives that allow students to test their knowledge about sports.
- **Athletes' Corner** provides information about some well known athletes or students can find out about a rising star.

The Games, to be held in Melbourne from 15–26 March 2006, will bring together 4500 athletes from 71 nations. Between now and March 2006 the following resources will be sent to all schools: Post-compulsory Resource; Middle Years Resources; Integrated Units for Prep to Year 10; and CommPASS: a passport program for primary schools.

More information can be found on the Education Program section of the 2006 Commonwealth Games website at <[www.melbourne2006.com.au/education](http://www.melbourne2006.com.au/education)>.



Students investigate how the angle of release impacts on the distance a shot put can be thrown.

# 2005 AIM Pre-enrolment

From 2005, students sitting the AIM tests will be pre-enrolled using data provided to the VCAA by schools. Pre-enrolment will allow individual student details, including names, birth date and gender to be printed on the test booklets. This change will result in significant time savings in the administration of the tests at the school level.

Student data will be submitted to the VCAA on two occasions, firstly in April and then in August.

The April data will support the AIM pre-enrolment, and the August data will be required to meet State and Commonwealth requirements for reporting student literacy and numeracy achievements. The method of submission of data is dependent on the school sector; government and independent schools will be required to submit the data directly to the VCAA, while Catholic schools will be required to submit it to the Catholic Education Office who will

then submit it via a bulk data transfer to the VCAA.

Schools will be given detailed advice in due course as to the procedures to be followed in order to submit AIM pre-enrolment data to the VCAA. At this stage enquiries regarding AIM pre-enrolment in 2005 should be directed to Christopher Perry, via email to [perry.christopher.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:perry.christopher.d@edumail.vic.gov.au), or by telephone (03) 9651 4472.

This P-10 Supplement is an adjunct of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) Bulletin. The VCAA BULLETIN is a monthly publication (excluding January) carrying information and administrative advice about the Victorian Certificate of Education and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.

For subscriptions to the VCAA BULLETIN go to: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/correspondence/bulletins/bullsubscription.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/correspondence/bulletins/bullsubscription.html)

The VCAA BULLETIN and Supplements are also available online at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

Victorian schools only may photocopy this publication for use by teachers and students.

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