

Parents Victoria Strategy



Our Mission

To ensure that the educational journey for every student in a state government school is holistically supported and achieved in partnership with parents, schools and Government.

Our Vision

A fully supported Victorian public education system meeting the needs of every student, where parents' voices are sought, heard and valued.

Who We Are

Parents Victoria is a unique, not for profit organisation established in 1925. Run by a volunteer executive with contracted staff, we are an enthusiastic and proactive supporter of family engagement in public education. We strive to promote a communicative, supportive, and productive relationship between school, student, and family.

We encourage a united parent voice within school communities, including via Parent Clubs, and amplify that to the Department of Education & Training for consideration in all its deliberations. We advocate the parent perspective to the Federal Education Department through our membership of the Australian Council of State School Organisations, the peak national body representing families in public education.

Our organisation pursues a broad goal of ensuring that public education is compulsory, inclusive, secular, and equitable for all.

Our Principles

1. Independent

As an independent organisation, Parents Victoria chooses not to affiliate itself with any political party. We take great pride in creating collaborative partnerships, allowing us to pursue the broad goal of ensuring that education is equitable, secular, compulsory and inclusive.

2. Supportive and representative

Parents Victoria is inclusive and supports all families in state government schools, regardless of race, religion, culture, gender, identity, or socio-economic background. In creating positive partnerships with all stakeholders, we can ensure the families' needs and concerns are heard. We understand the issues we are presented with are often sensitive, therefore, privacy and confidentiality are of the highest priority.

3. Ethical

Parents Victoria conducts itself ethically and with integrity, transparency, and professionalism in all interactions with parents, educators, and governments to ensure the best outcomes for all students are achieved.

4. Communicative

As an experienced and trusted advisor, Parents Victoria provides clarity, insight and context around policies, rights, and responsibilities to all Parent Clubs, parents, educators, and policymakers.

Our Goals

1. Sustainability of PV

We are a sustainable organisation because we want Parents Victoria to be the voice for future generations of Victorian state school families in the education of their children.

We do this by creating a strong governance model that keeps Parent Clubs and parents at the centre of decision making, by sourcing multiple forms of income; by ensuring we are working with the right people; and by regularly evaluating our events and advocacy to ensure they are meeting the needs of the people we represent.

2. Public school funding

We advocate for fair, simple and transparent funding of State Schools because the current funding model does not provide adequately for our most vulnerable students. We believe this must change; that resources to address inequity need to be allocated as a *priority*.

We do this by highlighting and acting against this unfairness wherever and whenever we can; be it publicly via the media, lobbying collaboratively with allied organisations or engaging directly with education decision makers.

3. Family Engagement

We campaign for better family engagement in schools because families should have meaningful input into key decision-making around their children's education. We believe (and research supports this belief) that parents/carers are our children's first educators and family engagement plays an essential role in ensuring better student outcomes.

We do this by influencing systemic change; providing resources and information to teachers and school leaders that encourage meaningful partnerships between schools and families. Parent Clubs are the ideal avenue for engaging with parents. We also advise education decision makers and facilitate opportunities for consultation between families and the education system both at school level and through forums/events.

Our Goals continued

4. Genuine Inclusion

We advocate for all students to have access to a quality state education.

We believe school settings should provide for all students - including those who are not 'typical' or who fall outside the traditional parameters for funding support.

We do this by amplifying the voices of students through their families, to ensure all learners' needs are considered and accommodated. We influence policy and decision making at a system level and then support parents and educators to convert this policy into practice.

5. Successful Relationships

We promote relationship based education (RbE) because this is how we teach our children and the whole school community to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence. We believe that modelling respect, positive attitudes and behaviours is how you bring about an exemplary school culture and improved student outcomes in schools.

We do this by working with all education stakeholders to influence policy and implementation and embed the concepts of RbE in education.