



Dear Parent/Guardian

We are pleased to tell you about the Victorian Government's plans to improve student learning by setting new standards and improving student reports to parents.

### **Prep to Year 10 standards**

In March 2005 the Victorian Essential Learning Standards were released. The Standards describe essential elements of Prep to Year 10 education. They identify the learning that is important for students to succeed in school, at work, in their personal lives and in the community. The Standards were developed by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority in response to a request by the Victorian Government in the Blueprint for Government Schools.

These Standards have the support of all education sectors and will apply to all schools in Victoria, government and non-government, from 2006. The accompanying brochure provides you with an introduction to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

### **Year 9 assessment**

Recently the Victorian Government announced that the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) assessment program will be extended in 2006 to Year 9. All schools are invited to participate. The Year 9 AIM Mathematics and English tests will take place in April so you will receive results by the end of Term 2.

The tests will be based on the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards and will cover a broad range of achievement levels appropriate to Year 9 students. The tests will add to the information from Year 3, 5 and 7 AIM tests and assist parents and schools to judge student progress in these areas.

### **Reports for parents**

Shortly you will also receive advice on proposed changes to reporting in government schools. In government schools, new student report cards will enable you to know exactly how your child is doing at school and will also outline what the school will do to assist their future progress and how you might be able to help at home.


### **Information for parents**

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority recognises that it is important to provide clear and meaningful information to you about the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards. In addition to the introductory brochure, an information booklet will be developed for parents and distributed in early 2006. This publication will show you some exciting approaches to curriculum possible under the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and will use case studies of student experiences in a range of schools that reflect how different students learn.

We are confident that these initiatives will assist students in Victorian education to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to succeed in further education, work and life.



**Lynne Kosky, MP**  
Minister for Education and Training



**Stuart Hamilton**  
Chairperson  
VCAA