

An open letter to Premier Baillieu from principals and community sector leaders

Hands off our hands-on learning

Dear Premier

As principals of government secondary and special schools and representatives of community organisations supporting vocational education, we wrote to you last week to raise our serious concerns about cuts of \$48 million to funding for coordinators in the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

We now feel we must make our concerns public.

This hands-on program gives our students the skills employers are looking for — practical work-related experience and literacy, numeracy and personal skills essential for life and work. It has been proven to keep kids in school and other learning institutions.

20,000 students undertake VCAL every year.

The co-ordinators are the staff who develop links with employers and other education institutions and tailor programs to each individual student's needs.

Your decision to cut \$12m per year will force many of us to make the hard decision to cut back or discontinue VCAL programs or cut other programs.

You promised that the \$481m budget cuts you propose in education would not affect frontline services — yet the VCAL cuts will affect our most vulnerable students and reduce their options when they leave school.

Please, Premier: listen to our concerns and to the broader community and restore funding to this critical program.



Don't jeopardise the future of 20,000 students.

Alkira Secondary College
Ian McKenzie

Apollo Bay P-12 College
Elizabeth Hanger

Ashwood College
Kerrie Croft

Ashwood School
Helen Hatherly

Ballarat SC
Paul Rose

Baringa Special School, Moe
Rosie Romano

Bayside P-12 Senior College
Greg Pond

Belmont HS
Michael Caccamo

Belmore School
Joan Anson

Bellarine SC
Colin Sing and Greg Kelly

Belvoir Wodonga Special Developmental School
James Gay

Bendigo Senior SC
Dale Pearce

Berwick SC
Kerri Bolch

Boort District P-12 School
Mal Goldsworthy

Brauer College
Rob Porter

Broadford SC
Jo Whiteman

Brunswick SC
Vivienne Tellefson

Buckley Park SC
Tony Tataro

Bundoora SC
Sue Muscat

Camberwell HS
Jillian Laughlin

Carrum Downs SC
Carol Pyke and Marie Walker

Carwatha College P-12
Bronwyn Hamilton

Cobram SC
Vicki Nolen

Colac Specialist School
Suzanne Armstrong

Collingwood College
Dale Perichon

Copperfield College
Mark Nugent and Tony Simpson

Cranbourne SC
Ken Robinson

Croxton Specialist School Northcote
Michael Sertori

Croydon Community School & EMR Options
Bronwyn Harcourt

Dandenong HS
Martin Culkin

Debney Park SC
Alan Davis

Diamond Valley College
Greg Williams

Donald HS
Geoff Rigby

Doncaster SC
Eva McMaster

Drouin SC
Rob Monk

East Gippsland Specialist School
Peter Bush

Eltham HS
Vincent Sicari

Essendon Keilor College
David Adamson

Gisborne SC
Jon Morley

Gladstone Park SC
Maree Zagorski

Greensborough College
John Conway

Hallam Senior College
Ann Martin

Hawthorn SC
Virginia Murray

Hopetoun SC
Pamela Cupper

Hume Central SC
Glen Proctor

Hume Valley School
Diane Bassett

Kambrya SC
Nalini Naidu

Kensington Community HS
Gary Power

Keysborough SC
Heather Lindsay

Kooweerup SC
Peter Bottomley

Kuranjang SC
Sandra Eglezos

Kyneton SC
Mark Ridgeway

Lalor North SC
Denise Veltre

Lara SC
Lyn Boyle

Mansfield SC
Peter Baddeley

McClelland College
Angela Pollard

McLeod P-12
Kathie Gardner

Melton SC
David Reynolds

Mirboo North SC
Karen Lanyon

Monbulk SC
Margaret Uren

Monterey SC
Janine Leed

Mooroolbark College
Simon Reid

Mordialloc College
Michelle Roberts

Mount Eliza SC
Geoff Petrie

Mt Erin SC
Allen McAuliffe

Murtoa College
Dr Joanna Day

Myrtleford P-12 College
Heather Redmond

Narre Warren South P-12 College
Rob Duncan

Nathalia SC
John Sciacca

Northland SC
Raffaella Galati-Brown

Norwood SC
Vincent Vurtue

Parkdale SC
Greg McMahon

Patterson River SC
Maree Vinocuroff

Peter Lalor Vocational College
Paul Ryan

Princes Hill SC
John Stone

Rose Hill SC
Peter Rouse

Roxburgh College
Fernando Ianni

Sale Specialist School
Shelagh Donegan

Sandringham SC
Kim Stewart and Wayne Perkins

Scoresby SC
Gusty Martin

Shepparton HS
Ashley Robinson

Somerville SC
Daniel McManus

South Oakleigh SC
Debbie Locco

St Albans SC
Kerrie Dowsley

St Arnaud SC
Rebecca Montgomery

Staughton College
Zlatko Pear

Swan Hill Specialist School
Graeme Scoberg

Sydney Road Community School
Brian Considine

Tarneit Senior College
Michael Fawcett

Terang P-12 College
Adam Box

The Lakes P-9 College
Kerrie Heenan

Traralgon College
Paul Van Breugel

Upwey HS
Michael Sheehy

Verney Road School
Ross Lukies

Wanganui Park SC
Xavier Tanner

Wangaratta District Specialist School
Libby Hosking

Warragul Regional College
Robert Juratowich

Warringa Park School
Colin Schot

Wedderburn P-12 College
Kelvin Baird

Weeroona College Bendigo
Leanne Preece

Wellington SC
Mary Jo Putrino

Westall SC
David Tyson

Whittlesea SC
Terry Twomey

William Ruthven College
Karen Money

Williamstown HS
Lisa Sperling

Wonthaggi SC
Garry Dennis

Wycheproof P-12 College
Christine McKersie

Adult and Community Education Victoria
Wayne Hewitt

Australian Education Union Victorian Branch
Mary Bluett

Geelong Trades Hall Council
Tim Gooden

Victorian Trades Hall Council
Brian Boyd

Victorian Council of Social Service
Cath Smith

Berry Street
Sandie De Wolf OAM

Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative
Jason King

MackKillop Family Services
Micaela Cronin

Melbourne Citymission
Rev Ric Holland

St Luke's Anglicare
David Pugh

UnitingCare Gippsland
Tracey Gibson

Victorian Applied Learning Association
Linda Mitchell

Banyule Nilumbik Local Learning and Employment Network
Kate Rhodes

Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN
Mick Murphy

Brimbank Melton LLEN
Graeme Brown

Central Grampians LLEN
Murray Jensen

Gateway LLEN
Sandy Bennett

Goulburn Murray LLEN
Jennifer Hippisley

Highlands LLEN
Wendy Draayers

Hume Whittlesea LLEN
Bill Threlfall

Inner Northern LLEN
David Kennedy

Maribyrnong & Moonee Valley LLEN
Sue Fowler

North East LLEN
Margaret Crisp

Smart Geelong Region LLEN
Anne-Marie Ryan

South East LLEN
Andrew Simmons