Extended school hubs

Background
Schools and education systems in many countries around the world, including Australia, recognise that it is time to take school partnerships to a level of best practice with a clear structure that strongly supports school improvement.

This structure goes by many names including: Extended Service Schools, Extended School Hubs and Full Service Schools and is defined as schools delivering extended services to the community, either on site at the school or off site at a nearby venue. These activities are delivered before, during and after school hours through genuine partnerships with external agencies.

Best practice in Extended School Hubs
The evidence surrounding extended schools is that they are (and need to be) highly diverse, but there is a gold standard of provision. The most successful practice:

- mobilises the community to collectively address the issues facing its children and young people in ways that are responsive to its locale
- builds the collective expertise of the school and community
- connects schools and other agencies in new and positive ways
- reframes the role and practice of schools and other agencies
- prompts new systemic ways of supporting and resourcing children and young people’s education and wellbeing.

Victorian Extended School Hubs
In Victoria a model of Extended School Hubs is being trialled, for three years, in four low SES locations involving 17 primary and secondary schools.

The four Hub sites and schools are:

- Sandhurst Hub which involves Eaglehawk Primary School, Eaglehawk Secondary College and Comet Hill Primary School
- Geelong North Hub: Corio Bay Senior Secondary College, Corio West Primary School, Norlane West Primary School, Corio South Primary, Corio Primary, Flinders Peak Secondary, Norlane High and North Shore Primary.
- Wyndham Hub: Glen Devon Primary, Glen Orden Primary and Galvin Park Secondary.
- Frankston North Hub: Mahogany Rise Primary, Aldercourt Primary and Monterey Secondary.

The Victorian Extended School Hubs acknowledge that learning occurs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Schools are one place where learning occurs and that children and young people learn first in their homes, from families and in the community. The goals of the Victorian Extended School Hubs are to strengthen partnerships between schools, community and business to support students to achieve their education potential by:

- reducing barriers to learning that students experience
- connecting and coordinating external activities delivered before, during and after school hours to provide complementary learning for students and families.

How the Victorian Extended School Hubs Work
The Hubs are developed using a locally driven approach, commonly known as place based, consequently each hub differs according to the needs of their communities.
Each Hub has a partnership coordinator, located on the school site. The role of the partnership coordinator is to work with the school leadership teams and local governance group to:

- Develop partnerships between the schools, community, business and external agencies
- Ensure that the activities and services complement each other and directly align with areas of priority agreed by schools, community and external agencies.
- Coordinate the effort of non-government, local government and state government programs.
- Build the capacity of the school staff to work with external organisations.

Each of the hub sites has established a unique local governance structure that involves the partner agencies and schools.

Members of the governance group bring a range of expertise and knowledge about the community and existing programs operating in the local area. The governance group is responsible for ensuring that the hub activities align to the areas of priority identified by the community as well as provide support and guidance to the partnership coordinator.

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More information
- **Literature review and background research for the National Collaboration Project** – Extended Service School Model: The Foundation for Young Australians 2010 Final Report
- **Place based process** - this diagram details the approach used by the Victorian Extended School Hubs.
- **Extended School Hub Governance Models** - examples of governance arrangements that have been adopted by two Victorian Extended School hubs.
- **Extended School Hub** - logic model diagram: - details the activities and resources to achieve intended goals and impacts.
- **Vodcast** - To hear what principals and people working with the hubs have to say about their activities listen to this short vodcast.