Testimonials

The School Communications Toolkit is the result of extensive research into the communication practices of individual schools, clusters and school communities. Eight focus groups and 21 school-based discussion groups provided insights into the range of attitudes towards Victorian education, school communication and public education in general.

A pilot version of the Toolkit was tested by two clusters of schools – one metropolitan and one regional. Most of their suggestions have been incorporated into this final version. We were also very encouraged by their positive comments, some of which are listed below.

‘Information was clear, easy to read and motivating. Very practical resource, one of the best we have seen from the DE&T.’

‘Probably the most useful Toolkit I have seen. Lots of practical ideas/samples/templates/case studies...seems to cover every contingency. Very well set out, well done!’

‘Easy to refer to, brief and to the point, gives realistic examples of successful approaches.’

‘We used the web tool to build our website which we launched last week. A tremendous platform for evaluating and improving current practice. Pro formas are excellent!’

‘The other school examples and the incredibly useful pro formas make this a very practical asset to school administration.’

‘Loads of ideas and the benefits of other people’s hard work. All the sections (and specifically the pro formas) inform as to the DE&T policy and legal requirements.’

‘Easy reading, comprehensive and very relevant to current expectations of school communities.’

‘Thank you for this kit...it is long overdue.’
Acknowledgments

The School Communications Toolkit has been made possible through the input of a wide range of schools across Victoria. The initial Toolkit was informed by ideas and contributions gathered through focus group research in 21 schools. These focus groups consisted of principals, administration staff, teachers, school councillors, parents and students. Their assistance and guidance resulted in a better understanding of how to best develop a communications guide for schools that is simple, direct and user focused.

Thanks is extended to the following focus group schools:
- Beulah Primary School
- Black Hill Primary School
- Braybrook College
- Brimbank Secondary College
- Camberwell High School
- Cobden Technical School
- Eaglehawk Secondary College
- Kangaroo Flat Primary School
- Leopold Primary School
- Maryborough Education Centre
- Mill Park Secondary College
- Monbulk Primary School
- Murtoa P–12 College
- Parkdale Secondary College
- Ringwood Secondary College
- Sebastopol College
- Thomas Chirnside Primary School
- Tullamarine Primary School
- Vermont Primary School
- Warrnambool East Primary School
- Western Heights Secondary College

Following its development, the Toolkit was piloted by a number of schools to test for accuracy and usability.

A special thanks is extended to the participating pilot schools for their time, suggestions and counsel:
- Altona Gate Primary School
- Baringa Special School
- Bayside Secondary College
- Glengarry Primary School
- Grey Street Primary School
- (Traralgon)
- Hobsons Bay Primary School
- Kurnai College
- Laverton Secondary College
- Lowanna College
- Moe (South Street) Primary School
- Seabrook Primary School
- Spotswood Primary School
- Traralgon Secondary College
- Tyers Primary School
- Williamstown Primary School
- Yarraville Special Developmental School
- Yarraville West Primary School
- Yinnar South Primary School

Gratitude is extended to all the schools that provided us with case studies for this Toolkit. Special acknowledgment also goes to the insights and advice from our parent and school council organisations.
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