Review of the Structure of School Sport in Victoria
IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE: JUNE 2009

The Minister for Education, the Hon Bronwyn Pike MP recently met with Mr Brad Allen, president of the Victorian Primary Schools Sports Association (VPSSA) and Mr Rob Carroll, president of the Victorian Secondary Schools Sports Association (VSSSA) to discuss school sport, its value and sustainability. Minister Pike confirmed her strong support for school sport and acknowledged the voluntary contribution of teachers and parents in providing sporting opportunities for thousands of Victorian students.

Implementation of the review recommendations has reached a significant milestone with the 'in principle agreement' of the two associations to merge. This agreement will lead to the establishment of a single governance structure for school sport in Victoria and achieve one of the eleven recommendations of the review.

In reaching this milestone the Executive of both school sport associations attended a joint briefing in late May, where options for the new governance structure were outlined. We are now in a stronger position to deliver further recommendations from the review.

In the next edition of Shine Magazine, a feature article explaining the merger, and acknowledging the important contribution that the VPSSA and VSSSA have made to school sport in Victoria will be published. This should assist in keeping teachers and the broader school sport community up to date with the status of the review.

Another recommendation will soon be achieved with Minister Pike releasing a Statement on school sport, physical education and healthy lifestyles. This statement should assist schools to offer effective school sport programs by providing advice on resources, research and links to supporting organisations.

Now that the direction for the governance structure is decided, the coming months will focus on the underpinning organisational structure, forming partnerships and achieving workforce recognition. Consultations with schools and sporting bodies such as VicSport will continue as we establish a cohesive structure, and define formal partnerships with the wider sporting community to strengthen school sport. In addition, internal work to recognise the leadership roles of teachers involved in school sport is underway.

There is a lot of challenging work to be done in the next three months to achieve the new shape of school sport in Victoria. The success of this work relies on communicating progress, issues, and new developments. Your thoughts and views are important to this process so please contact the project team on details below:

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