

# Media Statement

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## Auditor-General's Report: Improving our Schools: Monitoring and Support

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A report by **Auditor-General, Des Pearson**, titled *Improving our Schools: Monitoring and Support*, was tabled in the Victorian Parliament today.

The audit examined whether the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (the Department) effectively supports government schools with student outcomes below expected levels to improve.

Mr Pearson found that since the *Blueprint for Government Schools* reform agenda was launched in 2003, the Department had introduced targeted programs to support schools performing below expected levels to improve student achievements. The reform agenda had a focus on addressing the high concentration of student outcomes below expected levels in some government schools and some regions.

The report highlighted that support for schools had improved in a number of areas, including improved processes for identifying schools needing support, targeted initiatives had been developed from a sound evidence base, and more intensive support for schools was provided by the Department's regional offices. The suite of measures of school performance had also improved over time.

However, the report identified that the high demand for this targeted support by some schools performing below expected levels exceeded the current capacity of the regional offices to deliver the degree of support needed. In recommending that the allocation of resources across regions be reviewed, Mr Pearson said that the allocations needed to appropriately take account of schools' support needs and enable regions to effectively fulfil their responsibilities for school improvement.

Mr Pearson said that the Department also needs to "identify and share knowledge across the government school system about the strengths, weaknesses and cost-effectiveness of the range of interventions used to support schools with student outcomes below expected levels".

The report recommended that schools performing below expected levels be provided with improved support to help them assess their performance, identify whether they are on the right path to improvement and recognise their achievements.

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Direct link to report: [http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports\\_par/agp127\\_inbrief](http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_par/agp127_inbrief)

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### For further information:

Mr John Olesky, Manager, Corporate Communications  
[p] (03) 8601 7050 [m] 0419 330 785 [f] (03) 8601 7099  
[e] [john.olesky@audit.vic.gov.au](mailto:john.olesky@audit.vic.gov.au) Website: [www.audit.vic.gov.au](http://www.audit.vic.gov.au)