



Media statement

Tuesday, 30 June 2015

The Victorian Education Department's new Secretary Gill Callister today outlined sweeping changes to the Department's structure, culture and financial management system in response to the issues raised at IBAC.

These changes include:

- Abolishing the so called 'banker school' model, which was used by corrupt officials to divert education funding.
- A new, tightly controlled approach for delivering grants to schools to ensure all public education funds are fully accounted for.
- Extensive changes to procurement to improve spending oversight, cut red tape for schools and increase value for money.
- Executives will be rotated periodically to break down unhealthy networks and will be required to demonstrate integrity in their work to keep their jobs or be promoted.
- A new career pathway for senior school staff to move into public policy and administration roles to strengthen and unify our education system across schools and policy areas.
- Tougher travel, gifts, hospitality and vehicle benefit rules. Limits to overseas and interstate travel have been in place since the start of the month.
- Increased use of data analytics to more closely interrogate school finances.
- A new Integrity Division will be established, as part of a broader restructure, to oversee wide-ranging cultural reform and investigate misconduct in offices and schools.
- A new training program to support business managers to consistently meet professional standards.
- Stronger guidelines and training to give school councils more support, clarity and confidence to fulfil their responsibilities, including in relation to financial delegations.

Based on the evidence at IBAC, the Department has sacked three officials and suspended eight more staff. The Department will examine the necessary legislative and regulatory changes to more effectively manage staff misconduct.

At the request of the Minister for Education, the Department's actions will be monitored and scrutinised by the Public Sector Commissioner.

Quotes attributable to Secretary Gill Callister:

"These actions send a very clear message - I will not tolerate corruption, misconduct or dishonest behaviour in this Department."

"I will do everything in my power to create a culture in which integrity and accountability are the norm."

"I am determined to make sure public education funding is 100 per cent focused on improving outcomes for children."

“I am angry that the appalling conduct of a small group of people has undermined the good work of the majority of education staff, in schools and in the Department.”

“Further to the IBAC investigation, we have conducted wide-ranging audits and reviews across our organisation and discovered behaviours, cultures and practices that are clearly out of step with community expectations.”

“I truly believe that our people want to meet the highest standards of integrity and accountability, and I am determined to make changes to ensure they consistently do.”

“I am confident these actions will rebuild public trust in our work – and allow us to provide greater opportunities for Victorian children.”