

Response to the recommendations made to the Victorian Government by the Electoral Matters Committee in its 2018 report, *Inquiry into electoral participation in Victorian state parliamentary elections*

Background

The Victorian Government thanks the Electoral Matters Committee (Committee) for its report and acknowledges the valuable work undertaken by the Committee, which includes engagement with key stakeholders.

Response

The Government response to each of the Committee's recommendations to the Government is as follows. (Note – only the Committee's recommendations 3, 7 and 23 are directed to the Government.)

Government related recommendations:

Committee recommendation	Government response
<p>3 The Committee recommends the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) work with the Department of Education and Training to provide material support for elections for student representative positions for school council elections in Victorian schools in the form of election collateral that reflects, as far as practicable, election material used in Victorian state elections.</p>	<p>The Government supports-in-principle the recommendation.</p> <p>The Government recognises the merit in introducing students to the processes of voting at an early age, including voting materials.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Training will work with the VEC to investigate the implementation of this recommendation.</p>
<p>7 The Committee recommends the VEC, and the Victorian Government, explore non-school based opportunities to promote electoral engagement, including working with relevant peak organisations such as the Youth Affairs Council Victoria.</p>	<p>The Government supports the recommendation.</p> <p>The Government supports the work of the VEC on such initiatives and will continue to encourage non-school based initiatives that promote electoral engagement.</p>
<p>23 The committee recommends the Victorian Government explore the introduction of a student budget consultation process, based on the Canadian model administered by CIVIX. For future state budgets the results of the survey could be shared with the Department of Treasury and Finance.</p>	<p>The Government supports-in-principle the recommendation.</p> <p>The Government supports the teaching of civics in Victorian schools. The Victorian curriculum currently provides a civics and citizenship curriculum continuum for levels 3-10.</p> <p>The Government will explore the initiative and the possibility of developing a similar program for Victorian schools to include in their teaching and learning program.</p>