Parents Victoria | Q&A 2026

IT'S QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME FOR VICTORIA'S POLITICIANS

Every child deserves a public education that is properly funded, inclusive, affordable and connected to families.

Parents Victoria is asking Victoria's political leaders for clear commitments to Victorian government school families.

These 15 Parent asks sit beneath our four simple questions:

Will you value and back Victoria's public schools?

Will you fully fund Victorian public schools now?

Will you put families at the heart of public education?

Will you ensure Victorian government school families have a strong, independent voice?

15 QUESTIONS PUBLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES ARE ASKING YOU.

VALUE AND BACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. Give schools the people and resources they need

Parent ask:
Provide every public school with the workforce, resources and specialist support it needs to meet the needs of its students.

Potential commitments could include:
- more education support and administrative staff;
- wellbeing, youth and case-management support;
- adequate specialist staff;
- teacher recruitment and retention measures;
- support for schools with high levels of complexity;
- proper resourcing of new education initiatives.

2. Give teachers and principals time to teach and lead

Parent ask:
Reduce unnecessary administrative and compliance burdens and give teachers and principals the time and support they need to focus on students, teaching, learning and families.

Potential commitments could include:
- additional administration/resource support;
- leadership support in complex schools;
- protected teacher planning and collaboration time;
- properly resourced professional learning;
- less duplication and unnecessary compliance.

3. Build a specialist-school workforce for the future

Parent ask:
Develop and fund a dedicated specialist-school workforce strategy.

Potential commitments could include:
- recruitment and retention initiatives;
- specialist professional learning;
- leadership and succession planning;
- appropriate education support staffing;
- access to specialist expertise;
- workforce planning for future student need.

4. Make every school fit for purpose

Parent ask:
Ensure every child learns in a safe, healthy, accessible and fit-for-purpose school.

Potential commitments could include:
- transparent, needs-based maintenance funding;
- addressing the maintenance backlog;
- accessible facilities;
- appropriate specialist, therapy and wellbeing spaces;
- transparent planning for new schools and major upgrades;
- infrastructure designed around actual student need.

5. Make postcode irrelevant to educational opportunity

Parent ask:
A child's postcode should not determine the quality or range of education and support available to them.

Potential commitments could include:
- incentives to attract and retain teachers and specialists in rural and regional schools;
- equitable access to VET and careers programs;
- access to specialist and wellbeing services;
- improved regional transport;
- reliable technology and connectivity;
- regional access to specialist education and pathways.

FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION

6. Fully fund Victorian public schools now

Parent ask:
Commit to 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard without further delay.

Potential commitments could include:
- a clear pathway to 100% SRS;
- funding that reflects student need and disadvantage;
- fully funded new initiatives;
- transparent reporting of funding and outcomes;
- funding that allows schools to plan beyond a single budget cycle.

7. Make public education genuinely affordable

Parent ask:
No child should miss out on ordinary school experiences because their family cannot afford them.

Potential commitments could include:
- essential learning materials and devices;
- affordable uniforms;
- affordable camps and excursions;
- sport and recreation;
- funded or subsidised opportunities to attend and participate in music and arts;
- extracurricular activities;
- practical assistance for families experiencing financial hardship.

8. Recognise the real cost of regional students accessing higher education

Parent ask:
Regional young people should be able to pursue further education without their families carrying a disproportionate financial penalty simply because they live outside metropolitan Melbourne.

Potential commitments could include:
- assistance with relocation costs;
- accommodation support;
- transport assistance;
- better information for regional families planning for university;
- strengthened regional tertiary study options and pathways.

9. Give every young person a supported pathway beyond school

Parent ask:
Every young person should leave school with a realistic and supported pathway into further education, training, employment or meaningful community participation.

Potential commitments could include:
- further career and pathway support in Years 10–12;
- stronger VET and apprenticeship pathways;
- meaningful work experience;
- supported transition for young people with disability;
- better connections between schools, TAFEs, universities and employers;
- additional pathway support for disadvantaged and regional students.

PUT FAMILIES AT THE HEART

10. Family Engagement/Liaison Officer in schools

Parent ask:
Fund dedicated family liaison roles so schools have the capacity to build strong relationships with families and resolve problems early.

Potential commitments could include:
- dedicated Family Engagement/Liaison Officers;
- priority for schools experiencing greater disadvantage or complexity;
- assistance connecting families with services;
- support for families navigating school concerns and a better understanding of public education and learning provision

11. Make sure every child can attend, belong and participate

Parent ask:
When a child is struggling to attend or participate in school, families and schools should not be left to solve complex problems without adequate support. A child who cannot attend school needs help to re-engage — not simply greater pressure on the child, family or school.

Potential commitments could include:
- a School Can't Response Team model;
- rapid specialist assistance to schools;
- early intervention before prolonged absence becomes entrenched;
- family-centred re-engagement planning;
- attendance and engagement specialists;
- links to health, disability, youth and community services;
- additional support for schools without the resources or capacity to manage complex cases.

12. Make Disability Inclusion work in the classroom

Parent ask:
Disability Inclusion funding must translate into practical support and reasonable adjustments for children.

Potential commitments could include:
- adequate Disability Inclusion funding;
- protected teacher time to plan and implement adjustments;
- professional learning for teachers, education support staff and leaders;
- access to specialist expertise and allied health;
- stronger monitoring of whether agreed supports are actually reaching children;
- meaningful family participation in decisions about adjustments.

13. Give families independent help when systems aren't working

Parent ask:
Families should have somewhere independent to turn when they cannot resolve an education or disability issue themselves.

Potential commitments could include:
- sustainable independent disability advocacy and agencies;
- family navigation and peer support;
- help understanding education rights and reasonable adjustments;
- assistance with complex disputes;
- independent support for families navigating multiple systems

14. Give students and families a genuine voice

Parent ask:
Children, young people and families should have meaningful opportunities to influence the education system and decisions that affect them.

Potential commitments could include:
- sustainable student voice programs;
- meaningful parent participation in policy development;
- stronger support for school councils;
- student participation in school improvement;
- inclusion of students with disability and other under-represented groups;
- clear feedback loops showing how student and family views influenced decisions.

NURTURE AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY VOICE

15. Ensure Victorian government school families have a strong, independent voice

Parent ask:
Provide sustainable funding beyond 2027 so Parents Victoria can continue representing, supporting and connecting Victorian government school families and supporting schools to build strong, positive relationships and healthy school cultures.

Potential commitments could include:
- sustainable funding for Parents Victoria beyond 2027;
- funding Relationship based Education (RbE) professional learning for schools and families
- meaningful parent participation in education policy;
- support for school councils and parent club/association participation;
- regular mechanisms for government to hear directly from families;
- transparent reporting on how parent and community feedback has influenced policy.