

Cybersecurity in Primary Schools Bill 2023

A Bill for an Act to implement cybersecurity education in primary schools. This Bill aims to foster an understanding of the use of technology and social media, both the danger and the benefits, and provide a preventative approach to ensuring younger generations are prepared to engage with a rapidly changing technological landscape, ensuring their safety online.

This Bill will provide schools the resources to implement more progressive cybersecurity education aimed towards young students within this fast-paced and increasingly youth-relevant technological landscape. With 82.7% of Australians having an active social media account in February 2022, and Australian's having lost over 2 billion dollars to online scams in 2021 alone, early and comprehensive cybersecurity education is proving to be increasingly necessary and urgent.

A Bill for an Act relating to Cybersecurity in Primary School.
To be enacted by the Y's Victorian Youth Parliament.

Part I - Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are to;

- (a) Develop and establish the Victorian Primary Education Cybersecurity Body (VPECB) to ensure its longevity;
- (b) Implement methods of communication between the established body and Australian primary schools;
- (c) Provide technological education for the safety of children online;
- (d) Provide schools which lack technological resources with the appropriate digital learning tools;
- (e) Provide support and resources to parents of primary school students relating to cybersecurity and reduce stigma surrounding new technology uses.

Clause 2 Commencement

This Bill shall commence upon receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill;

- (a) **Cybersecurity** means the total protection of personal information in online spaces, including but not restricted to banking details, personal names and contact information, as well as the wellbeing of users;
- (b) **Social media** means websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or participate in social networking;

- (c) **Technological devices** means any device which can be used to complete schoolwork and connect to the internet, including laptops, personal computers, and tablets;
- (d) **VPECB** means the Victorian Primary Education Cybersecurity Board.

Part II – Establishment

Clause 4 Establishment the Victorian Primary Education Cybersecurity Board (VPECB)

- 4.1 The Victorian Primary Education Cybersecurity Board (VPECB) shall be established.
- 4.2 The responsibilities of the VPECB shall be;
- (a) To develop and implement the new cybersecurity curriculum;
 - (b) To ensure that school context is considered and integrated into the new curriculum, including;
 - (i) Rurality;
 - (ii) Socio-economic demographic.
 - (c) To develop and deliver training in the new curriculum;
 - (d) To oversee school staff who are associated with relevant programs.
- 4.3 The VPECB shall consist of;
- (a) A representative from the office of the Minister for Education;
 - (b) Cybersecurity experts;
 - (c) Educators.
- 4.4 The VPECB and associated programs shall undergo a review process every twelve months, including;
- (a) A review time frame subject to the discretion of the VPECB.

Clause 5 Establishment of a Head of Cybersecurity in Every Victorian Primary School

- 5.1 Every Victorian Primary school shall hire or appoint from current staff a Head of Cybersecurity.
- 5.2 The Head of Cybersecurity position shall;

- (a) Be fully supported by the state government and not at the expense of schools;
 - (b) Have a background in a field that is not Information Technology (I.T.). Acceptable backgrounds include;
 - (i) Teaching;
 - (ii) Wellbeing or counselling;
 - (iii) Youth work.
 - (c) Report directly to the VPECB.
- 5.3 Each Head of Cybersecurity shall be responsible for completing training in cybersecurity relevant to the primary school context;
- (a) This training shall be determined and delivered by the VPECB.
- 5.4 Heads of Cybersecurity shall be responsible for delivering a modified version of the training to staff at their schools;
- (a) This training shall be mandatory for all teaching staff, including leadership;
 - (b) This training shall be optional for all other staff members of the schools, including;
 - (i) Education support staff;
 - (ii) Wellbeing team members.

Clause 6 Establishment of Training for Parents and Carers

- 6.1 The VPECB shall develop learning modules tailored to parents and carers taking into consideration school context factors outlined in Clause 4.2(b).
- 6.2 The modules shall be free to parents and carers of students enrolled in Victorian primary schools.
- 6.3 The modules shall be optional, but highly encouraged by schools and the VPECB.
- 6.4 To consolidate learnings within the modules, schools shall host an annual Question-and-Answer session on the topic of cybersecurity;

- (a) The Question-and-Answer sessions shall be hosted by the school's Head of Security and a panel of guest speakers. Guest speakers may include;
 - (i) I.T. field experts;
 - (ii) Cybersecurity experts;
 - (iii) VPECB members.
- (b) The Question-and-Answer sessions shall be live streamed.

Clause 7 School Based Promotion of Positive Social Media Use

- 7.1 Schools shall be responsible for promoting positive social media use to their communities.
- 7.2 Promotions shall take place via;
 - (a) Each school's official website;
 - (b) Physical informative literature such as pamphlets;
 - (c) Everyday communiques with parents such as an online portal;
 - (d) Each school's professional social media pages.
- 7.3 Promotion of positive social media use shall be aimed at parents and students.
- 7.4 The content of the communications shall be determined by the VPECB.

Clause 8 Provision of Technological Devices to Primary Schools

- 8.1 The VPECB shall conduct a review of all technological devices being supplied to students by Victorian primary schools.
- 8.2 The VPECB shall facilitate the provision of supplemental technological devices to all Victorian primary school students;
 - (a) All primary school students shall have access to a technological device for educational and personal use;

- (b) The types of devices and the installation of any programs, such as security software, shall be determined by the VPECB in conjunction with each school's Head of Cybersecurity.
- 8.3 The technological devices shall be appropriate for the age and needs of the year level to which they are provided.

Clause 9 Establishment of a Mandatory Cybersecurity Curriculum

- 9.1 The VPECB shall develop a mandatory Cybersecurity curriculum to be delivered in all Victorian primary schools.
- 9.2 The curriculum shall be;
- (a) Delivered to all year levels, including preparatory year levels up to grade 6;
 - (b) Overseen by each school's Head of cybersecurity;
 - (c) Reviewed and updated every three years to ensure the content;
 - (i) Is up to date;
 - (ii) Maintains relevance in the changing Australian technological context.
- 9.3 The content of this curriculum shall include, but shall not be limited to;
- (a) Appropriate use of social media;
 - (b) Information safety when using social media;
 - (c) Information safety when using non-social media websites;
 - (d) The nature of trends and identifying scams online.