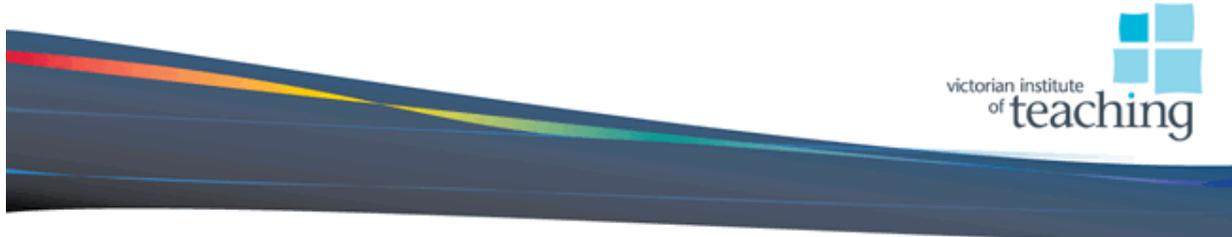


From: Victorian Institute Of Teaching [mailto:vit@edumail.vic.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 26 May 2016 11:00 AM
To: DL All Schools
Subject: Message from the Chairperson 2/2016



26 May 2016

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

A message from Victorian Institute of Teaching Chairperson Don Paproth

Dear Colleagues,

In November 2011 the then Minister for the Teaching Profession, Peter Hall, offered me the opportunity to become Chair of the Council of the Victorian Institute of Teaching. It was to be unexpected but a challenge that I couldn't resist.

Minister Hall told me that he wanted the Institute to become a more 'customer friendly' organisation, to work with and for the profession whilst still retaining our essential function of registration and regulation. Talk about 'easier said than done'!

I had retired a few months earlier after 43 years in education and it is fair to say that I was enjoying retirement. After you have spent four decades of your life putting on a tie and responding to bells, timetables and diaries being suddenly and totally 'unshackled' can be a difficult transition. For me it was awful. I felt utterly directionless and a very old sixty year old. So I took on the task with enthusiasm.

First we set about explaining our purpose to teachers and principals. In short we exist for the public good; the protection of the public. As I've said many, many times;

"...you wouldn't fly with an unregistered pilot, have an unregistered builder build your house or allow an unregistered doctor operate on your child. Why then would you put an unregistered teacher in front of a class?"

Most people understand this but there are still some who belligerently ask, "*but what do I get for my money?*" The answer of course is a licence to ply your craft, just like a nurse, an architect, a plumber, an accountant or a psychologist gets for their registration fees.

We are proud of the way we have changed the Institute over the last four and a half years make it part of the profession, not standing at arm's length from it. Our language, our communications and our processes have improved immeasurably. For this I can thank our Melanie Saba, her band of Senior Managers, and a highly skilled and dedicated staff.

I am also grateful to the members of the Council, the majority of whom were there through my whole term. In particular I wish to thank my Deputy Debra Punton who has always propped me up with wise counsel and support.

It is now time for me to move gracefully into the next phase of life. I have informed the Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino that I will not be seeking nomination to the Council of the Institute.

This is the last time I will be writing to you as the Chair. I have had a privileged, challenging and rewarding time at the Institute to end my career in education. But the time is now right for me to go.

I have enjoyed my time in education and would do it all again, given the opportunity. I have enormous respect for the teaching profession and particularly the role of Principal which is much more difficult job than it was when I first became a Principal in 1989. I admire the essential work that you do in leading your school community.

I wish you well in the future.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Paproth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Paproth
Chairperson