



Victorian Student

CONGRESS 5

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Victorian Student
Representative Council

The VicSRC Congress
Oasis Campsite
6-7 August 2010

CONGRESS 5

Your Guide to
Congress 5



Victorian Student
Representative Council

VicSRC Supporter

best congress ever!



**Victorian Student
Representative Council**

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The VicSRC would like to thank the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for supporting the 2010 VicSRC Congress



INTRODUCTION



**Victorian Student
Representative Council**

The VicSRC

The Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC) is a state-wide network of Victorian secondary school students. The VicSRC is auspiced by the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria and funded through the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Our Vision

We want an education system where learning is enjoyable, practical and meaningful and where SRCs are valued and supported to contribute to making this an ongoing reality. We want a VicSRC that fosters connections between SRCs and is recognised as the peak body for secondary students in Victoria.

Our Aims

- **Strengthen SRCs;**
- **Be a representative body for Victorian secondary school students;**
- **Facilitate and co-ordinate action by secondary students at all levels;**
- **Be democratic and participatory.**

The full aims of the VicSRC can be found in Appendix 1.

Aims of the Congress

The Congress aims to provide an opportunity for students to raise issues of concern to them and propose ways of addressing these. The resolutions of the Congress become the agenda for the VicSRC. The Congress also provides an opportunity for students to elect a group of their peers to enact this agenda on their behalf.

In addition, Congress offers:

- wide-ranging discussions on how to strengthen Student Councils;
- networking opportunities; and
- opportunity to stand for election to the VicSRC Student Executive.

Organising the Congress

The Congress was planned and run by the VicSRC Student Executive. Information about the Congress was sent to SRCs and support staff in all Victorian secondary schools. SRCs were each invited to nominate three student representatives to attend the Congress, and identify the issues they wished to raise.

The suggestions from SRCs about topics of interest formed the agenda for the Congress. Topics for discussion fell within three areas:

- **SRC Issues**
- **School-based issues**
- **Community Issues**

The Congress Process

The Annual VicSRC Congress this year was christened “Congress 5” as 2010 was the 5th year that the VicSRC has held a Congress. We’re very proud of this fact and even prouder that Congress 5 was the biggest Congress yet with 91 students in attendance from 38 schools across Victoria! The schools represented are listed in Appendix 2 of this report.

The first day began with a new initiative for Congress - an “SRC fair”, with a variety of stalls provided by VicSRC supporters Connect Magazine, RU MAD, Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, Second Strike, VISTA, State Schools Relief and Parents Victoria. The atmosphere in the room was electric with energy and ideas as students completed an interesting task at each stall and shared information with stall holders.

After the SRC Fair, students spent some time getting to know each other and completing an exercise in which they envisioned their perfect SRC. The out-going Student Executive then gave a report about the implementation of last year’s Congress Resolutions and the various projects the VicSRC has been involved in during their term on the Executive.

In the afternoon, students held workshops on a variety of topics nominated by students prior to Congress. During these workshops motions were created to put to the Congress. A list of the workshop topics can be found in Appendix 3.

The Congress was convened in formal parliamentary style and chaired once again by Alex Markham, Education Officer of the Victorian Electoral Commission. Speakers were heard speaking for and against each motion and participants often took the chance to propose amendments to the motions before they were put to a vote.

On Day 2, students repeated the process of running workshops and holding Congress. At the conclusion of Congress, delegates elected fifteen of their peers to the VicSRC Student Executive 2010-2011 to implement the successful resolutions. A list of these students can be found on page 21.

Motions that couldn’t be considered during the Congress due to time constraints have also been referred to the VicSRC Student Executive for consideration and action.



VicSRC EXECUTIVE REPORT

AUGUST 2009–AUGUST 2010

“We will only be as successful as the plans we make and the actions we take.”

The 2009/2010 Exec was elected and ready to begin our exciting voyage with the VicSRC. Our Exec journey began with a two day strategic planning and training camp enabling us time to establish our vision for the VicSRC, as well as set goals for the year and develop strategies to achieve them. We also learnt some new skills and improved on our old ones, all while spending lots of time bonding with our fellow Exec members. At camp we were assigned our portfolios for the year ahead. Portfolios are created from resolutions passed at Congress and are allocated to members of the VicSRC Executive to work on during their term as Exec members. This year each Exec member was given several portfolios to complete throughout the year ranging from Membership to Media to Healthy Food and Cyber bullying. We successfully completed many of these tasks and to a significantly high standard. The completion of the portfolios resulted into numerous kits being made, Executive members speaking about key student issues on panels and the creation of the SRC Recognition Awards.

During our term, the VicSRC continued to hold both Metropolitan and Regional Student Conferences. Conferences provide an opportunity for students to gather in local groups and discuss issues they are facing as both students and SRC Representatives. This year's Exec believed it would be very beneficial to employ a skilled facilitator to organise and deliver a structured workshop. Thank you to Erin Young, our conference facilitator, for her excellent execution and delivery of the conferences and for her passion and dedication throughout the whole process.

Throughout the year the Executive attended and participated in many significant forums and events. In November, ten members of the Exec attended the Department of Education's Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development: One Year On forum. The VicSRC was involved in the original consultation process for the Blueprint and was very happy to have been included in this important forum. Exec members also participated in The International Cyber Bullying forum, where the issue of cyber bullying was addressed as well as ways to limit its occurrence and the *My school, Whose school?* forum, where NAPLAN, the national curriculum and the My school website were discussed from a student perspective.

Two major projects that we as an Exec are particularly proud of working on during our term are the SRC Resource Kit, '*Represent!*' created for SRC members and SRC support teachers and *The VicSRC Guide for Principals*.

Represent! has been developed to help existing SRCs to achieve greater things, work more effectively, be further integrated into the decision making mechanisms within their school and to realise their full potential. We hope our resource will also assist students in schools without an existing SRC to set up new ones. We have handed the responsibility of completing our resource kit project on to the new Exec and we look forward to seeing the final results at the end of 2010!

The VicSRC Guide for Principals was launched at the Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals' Forum in March 2010. The Exec commissioned the creation of this new resource for principals to further develop student participation and leadership in schools. The Guide outlines how SRCs can be utilised in the development of student participation and leadership and how principals can best support their SRC.

Another initiative in 2010 is our SRC Recognition Awards, established as a way to recognise and appreciate the achievements, effort and dedication of individual school SRCs. Three awards were created to recognise different aspects of working with SRCs: the Connect Award for integration, the Second Strike award for enterprise and the VASSP award for informed representation. The winners, runners up and finalists of these awards were announced at Congress. We hope that these awards will also encourage other schools to strive for greatness and realise how successful their SRC can be!

The biggest event of the year is always our annual VicSRC Congress held in August. Congress is the largest student-run decision-making body in the state with delegates representing over 25,000 Victorian secondary students. It is the top decision making forum for the VicSRC. Over two days, students discussed and debated ideas and issues of concern at our formal Congress style proceedings. The motions presented to, and passed by the Congress then became resolutions for the newly elected Executive to successfully complete. We also leave time to have lots of fun and get to know each other through group bonding activities. Congress 5 (as it was known this year) was a great success with over 90 students attending from 38 schools!

Whatever we have accomplished and wherever we've been, it's the strong interest and passion of students that really make a difference in their schools and communities. The Exec has tried our hardest to make the voices of students heard. We know there is still a long way to go to get the proper recognition and support for the contribution that the SRCs make in schools, but we believe we are beginning to achieve our goal to stand up and speak out for our fellow students.

In closing, the Executive would like to sincerely thank:

- The VicSRC Supporters Group, particularly Roger Holdsworth, creator of *Connect Magazine*, and David Mould, Director of Second Strike, for their generous contributions and support throughout the Executive year.
- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development who provides our funding and assists us to achieve our goals.
- The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria for their ongoing support and office space.
- All SRCs that have continued their memberships with us and all our new member SRCs.
- All schools, students and SRCs that have hosted, participated and assisted with VicSRC events.
- And finally Kate Walsh, VicSRC Coordinator, for her continued dedication and support in assisting the Executive with achieving their goals.

VicSRC Student Executive 2009/10

The VicSRC Executive are the student representatives, elected annually, that govern the VicSRC.

The Executive gives direction to the VicSRC staff, sets policy, makes any announcements to the media, communicates with SRCs and individual students and helps to strengthen and promote the aims of the VicSRC.

The VicSRC Executive's job is to represent what is actually being said via student councils across the State.

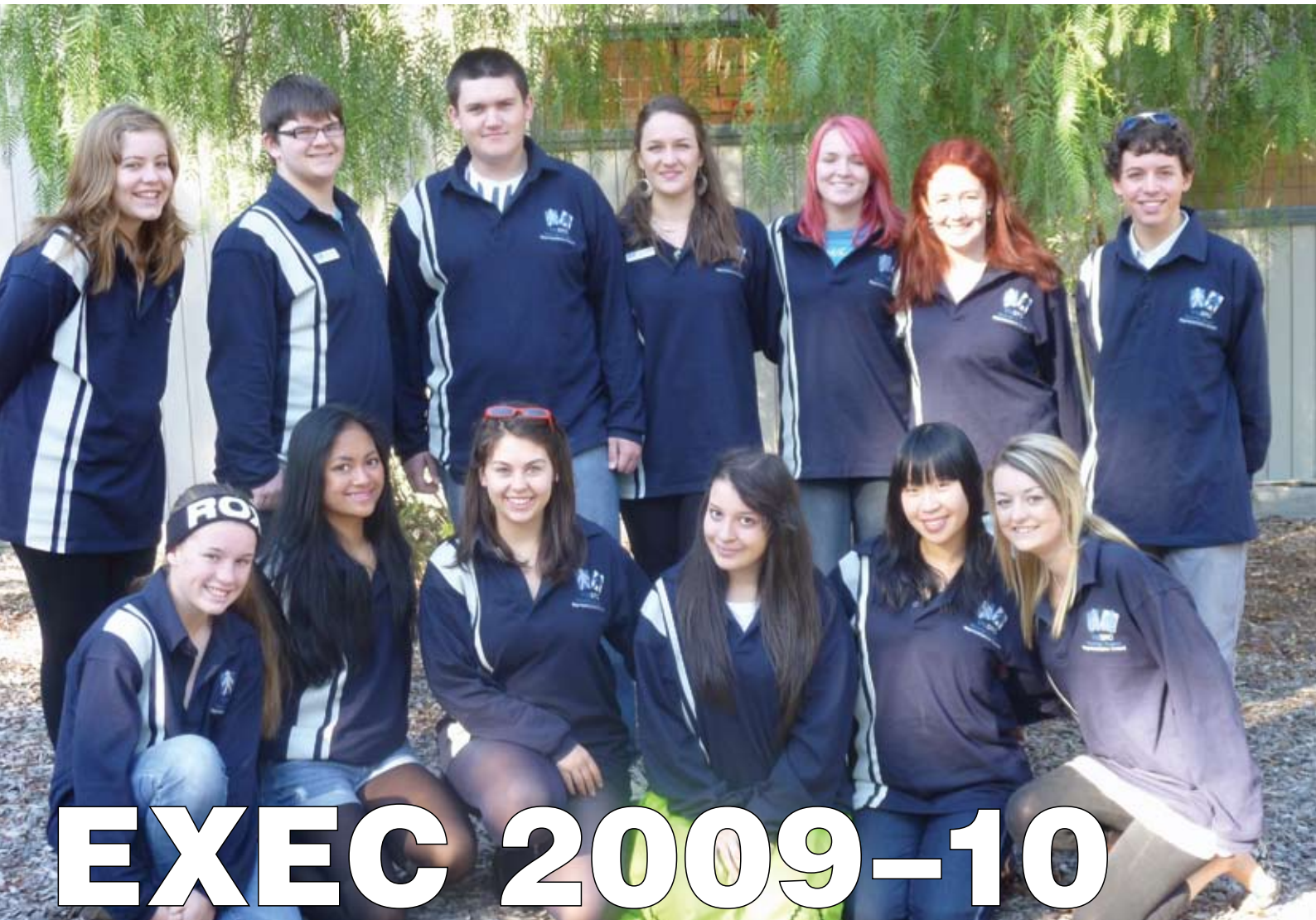
Outgoing Student Executive 2009–2010

Tiffany Chapman	Toorak College
Judy Chow	Mentone Girls' Grammar
Jenesse Cruz	Caroline Chisholm Catholic College
Laura Dick	Goulburn Valley Grammar
Angus Goodman	Myrtleford P-12 College
Georgia Hunt	Melbourne Girls' College
Elizabeth Kalas	Taylors Lakes Secondary College
Georgia Kennelly	The University High School
Michael Kurtanjek	The University High School
Emma Lewis	Bendigo Senior Secondary College
Cian McShane	Bellarine Secondary College
Emma Morrison	Templestowe College
Sam Mountford	Melbourne Girls' College

The VicSRC Student Executive 2009–10 would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the following students over the past year:

Ryan Lim	Taylors Lakes Secondary College
Ryan Gunn	Lowanna College

from left to right **back row:** Samantha, Michael, Cian, Laura, Emma M, Georgia K, Angus **front row:** Tiff, Jenesse, Georgia H, Liz, Judy, Emma L
not pictured: Ryan L, Ryan G,





CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS

The congress considered the following motions...

1 That the VicSRC create an online forum of SRCs on the VicSRC website to facilitate the exchange of ideas and examples of leadership and training.

Moved: Megan Shellie
Seconded: Rachael Williams

Points for:

- Creates an exchange of ideas, to strengthen SRCs in schools and communities
- One of the most valuable things an SRC can do

Points against:

- None

MOTION CARRIED

2 That the VicSRC send a representative speaker to all requesting schools to promote SRC (or similar) participation and the role of a student voice. The VicSRC should promote this service through the website and via email.

Moved: Kosheni Arulsothy
Seconded: Sara Nagle

Points for:

- Allows schools to understand the benefits of a strong SRC
- The VicSRC website and emails are easy methods of promoting the work of SRCs

Points against:

- SRC Executives have time commitments
- It is the individual SRC's responsibility

Amendments:

- Include "to go to regional conferences"

Denied

MOTION FAILED

3 That the VicSRC sends a letter to principals to recommend for at least two students to be on school council and for their views and perspectives to be included.

Moved: Tim Eric
Seconded: Lekhna Kheerodhur

Points for:

- Decisions on issues concerning students in schools will be made with student input

Points against:

- The Executive has already addressed this issue with a letter suggesting this
- There are potential legal issues regarding students on school councils, voting and bringing discussion topics

Response:

- The letter sent out by the Executive did not get sent out in this exact form
- The illegality needs to be addressed to overcome the under representation of students

Amendments:

- Change “students of school council...” to “that school council discusses and seeks approval from SRCs in the decision making process”

Carried

Motion Revised:

That the VicSRC encourage School Councils to discuss and get approval from SRCs in the decision making process.

MOTION CARRIED

4 That the VicSRC lobby the state government to fund and introduce mandatory leadership workshops and programs for all Victorian High Schools for at least one day a year.

Moved: Lou Mapleston
Seconded: Lauraine Nguyen

Points for:

There are no funds in schools for leadership days
The quality and skills of a leader are valued in society

Points against:

Why make the program mandatory when not all students want them?

Resources should be dedicated to keen students

Would this be spreading our resources too thin?

Need to weigh up cost vs. benefits before we make a decision

Response:

- Training is not for every student, but it must be available to interested students from every school
- The students who aren't interested are the ones who need the training most

Question:

- Is this training for all students or just SRC members?

Answer:

- The training should be aimed at SRCs

Amendment:

- Change “fund” to “subsidise”
- “focus on year 9s”

Motion Revised:

That the VicSRC lobby the state government to subsidise and introduce mandatory leadership workshops and programs (focused on year 9s) for all Victorian High Schools for at least one day a year.

MOTION CARRIED

5 That the VicSRC should create a video that will be used in schools to promote student involvement in their SRC.

Moved: Shaf Shariff
Seconded: Dylan laonnou Booth

Points for:

- It will help motivate SRC and non-SRC members to get involved
- Current approaches are not effective and need a fresh approach

Points against:

- —

MOTION CARRIED

6 That the VicSRC survey teachers and principals as to why they will not approve events, then to turn this information into a resource that gives schools ideas as to overcome these disapprovals and have these events approved. Also, case studies of successful events and how they were approved would be included in the kit.

Moved: Tim Wilson
Seconded: Emily Roberts

Points for:

- Not enough schools are allowed to do fundraising days/events
- The kit will help give students ideas that will help them get approval
- This will open up a dialogue between students and principals
- Students should be involved in the decision making process

Points against:

- Fundraising is a time consuming and does not yield great success
- Different principals have their own reasons for objecting to certain events
- A survey is time consuming for teachers
- Teachers/principals are professionals and sometimes decline permission for good reasons

Amendment:

- Replace "teachers" with "school councils"

Carried

Motion Revised:

That the VicSRC survey School Councils and Principals as to why they will not approve events, then turn this information into a resource that gives schools ideas on how to overcome these disapprovals and have these events approved. Also, case studies of successful events and how they were approved would be included in the kit.

MOTION CARRIED



7 That the VicSRC provide schools with a generic job description for the SRC support teacher role and that this serves as a mandate for schools to provide these SRC support teachers with necessary professional development.

Moved: Maddy Hayes
Seconded: Annalee Zampaglione

Points for:

- SRC teachers do not have much training
- Trained SRC teachers would be a great benefit for SRCs
- SRC teachers change regularly and new teachers take too long to figure out how to be an effective coordinator

Points against:

- There is already an SRC support teacher role statement which the VicSRC has recently completed and is in the process of being sent out

MOTION FAILED

8 That the VicSRC write to school principals and encourage them to allocate a yearly fund to their SRC and allow the SRCs to use this fund at their discretion.

Moved: Darren Tran
Seconded: Ibby Elmobayed

Points for:

- The money could be used to send students to VicSRC events, train teachers & for SRC administration costs
- This could revolutionise SRCs around Victoria
- This can benefit all students
- Many schools do not have an existing SRC budget

Points against:

- The money can add up quickly and perhaps students won't realise that the money has run out before they expected it to

Amendments:

- "money should be spent in consultation with teachers"

Failed

- Exchange "Principals" with "government"

Carried

Motion Revised:

That the VicSRC write to the government and encourage them to allocate a yearly fund to their SRC and allow the SRCs to use this fund at their discretion.

MOTION CARRIED (2 abstentions)



9 That the VicSRC provide written suggestions to schools on how to promote active involvement in their SRC.

Moved: Freya Rich
Seconded: Lei Xu

Point for:

- SRCs are often misunderstood and this will help them to be better understood
- Active student involvement should be promoted
- This should go to SRC teachers and students so they can better promote their SRC

Points against:

- The VicSRC is already doing their best developing an extensive kit
- Some students do not read pamphlets given to them
- It is up to each SRC to be self-motivated
- The VicSRC is already very active in providing such information

MOTION FAILED (5 abstentions)

10 That the VicSRC encourage all SRCs to develop a decision making “power” map of the school to be posted and be made accessible to all students.

Moved by: Kimberly Pellosis
Seconded: Hannah Brunton

Points for:

- A power map is a map of decision making structures in the school including school councils and committees etc.
- Very few students understand how decisions are made in their school
- A power map accessible to all students will help make SRCs more effective
- This will allow schools to re-evaluate what power the SRC has

Points against:

- Not all students pay attention to things up at schools

Questions:

- Will it include the subsections of each individual school?

Answer:

- It depends on the individual schools and their school structure

MOTION CARRIED



11 That the VicSRC encourage schools to allow SRCs to fundraise for themselves (as a council) and other school projects within the school.

Moved: Ebony Matthews
Seconded: Christina Ingatiadis

Points for:

- Many students are not included in the decision making process around projects/fundraisers and how the proceeds get spent.

Points against:

- —

Amendments:

- Include “and in the community”

Carried

Motion Revised:

That the VicSRC encourage schools to allow SRCs to fundraise for themselves (as a council) and other school projects, both within the school and the community.

MOTION CARRIED

12 That the VicSRC support anti-bullying campaigns in schools (physical, verbal and cyber bullying) by advertising through VicSRC resources and media and by providing examples of case studies in schools that have been successful.

Moved: Trent Knight
Seconded: Nathan Lai

Points for:

- Bullying is a big issue and everyone would like for it to be stopped
- The VicSRC should show its support for these measures to encourage those already participating in anti-bullying campaigns
- This can be the first step for minimising the problem, the next step is to work with bullies

Points against:

- There have been many attempts in different schools to stop bullying—bullies will always exist
- This should not be taken out of the SRCs budget
- Schools should be taking more action beyond SRCs—tougher punishments
- Other attempts have not been overly successful and SRCs should not waste effort on this issue

MOTION CARRIED



13 That the VicSRC conduct a survey of all Victorian High Schools regarding which healthier canteen options are successful at their schools. Then use this information to create a recipe book to be made available to all schools.

Moved: Marlee-Alice Gorman

Seconded: Michelle McDonald

Points for:

- Schools will be encouraged to have healthier food options
- Conducting a survey to find out what recipes are most useful and then creating a book that can be sent out to all schools
- Rather than banning junk food entirely, the book will offer healthier options
- Collecting recipes will save parents time

Points against:

- This is a good idea but who will be doing it?
- Parents who run canteens may not have the time to do this
- The VicSRC should not be forcing healthy options on schools
- Students have access to a lot of junk food outside of the school; the school should just stop allowing students to leave and buy this food

Amendments:

- Replace "recipe book" for "list on the VicSRC website of healthy and cost effective food supplies"

Carried

Motion Revised:

We move that the VicSRC conduct a survey of all Victorian High Schools regarding which healthier canteen options are successful at their schools, then use this information to create a list on the VicSRC website of healthy and cost effective food suppliers to be made available to schools.

MOTION CARRIED

14 That the VicSRC should work with the DEECD in reforming the current student satisfaction survey.

Moved: Kallee Sas

Seconded: Rachel Williams

Points for:

- The survey will include more options for students to say what they think about the school to include questions about vandalism, graffiti and littering

Points against:

- Questions get repeated to ensure an accurate response
- The survey is about more schooling issues, not vandalism, graffiti and littering

Questions:

- What does the survey have to do with vandalism, graffiti and littering?

Answer:

- At the moment, nothing, however students want these questions included in the survey

Amendments:

- Include: "including a student opinion section"

Point's for/against/questions on amendments:

- It's not about the school itself, it's about the issue
- Students will be biased when they write, or they may bend the truth, therefore the student survey process is flawed

Carried

Motion Revised:

That the VicSRC should work with the DEECD in reforming the current student satisfaction survey, including a mandatory student opinion section.

MOTION CARRIED

15 That the VicSRC emphasise the availability and benefits of government incentives or subsidies to help schools become more environmentally friendly. We propose that this is done by sending letters detailing specific actions that can be taken to principals and teachers as well as writing an article in the VicSRC newsletter.

Moved: Piper Huynh
Seconded: Patrick Truong

Points for:

- There is not enough awareness about the programs to make schools more sustainable
- The *VicSRC Environment Kit* should be marketed more so people know more about it
- If schools involve students now, they will grow up with this knowledge and continue to teach future generations
- Schools make a large contribution to climate change not only large industries

Points against:

- There is already a *VicSRC Environment Kit*
- It is the large industries and corporations that produce the CO₂, not schools and it is unnecessary for students to focus on schools as the cause of climate change

MOTION CARRIED

16 That the VicSRC encourage schools to raise support and awareness for sexual diversity in schools.

Moved: Lou Mapleston
Seconded: Catherine Beatty

Points for:

- Suicide rates for homosexual students who hide their sexuality is higher than for the average teen
- The VicSRC should do more to promote these issues and support all students within their schools to create safe environments
- Some homosexual students do not attend social events, such as formals because they do not feel welcome

Points against:

- There are some schools who are religiously aligned and have trouble supporting sexual diversity
- This does not seem like the best priority for the VicSRC

MOTION CARRIED



17 That the VicSRC research the possibility of developing a partnership with drug and alcohol associations or community groups to deliver interactive workshops and guest speakers who have first hand experiences. The intention being that students are awakened to the traumatic encounters due to the misuse of alcohol and illicit drugs.

Moved: Caitlin Parsons
Seconded: Sarah Van Dorssen

Points for:

- This builds on a previous motion to provide information to schools by building partnership with high quality groups
- Students will have the ability to hear directly from people who have experienced drug and alcohol problems
- Hearing from people with experience would be more useful instead of having teachers who read from a book

Points against:

- Most schools already have a drug and alcohol program

Amendment:

- Include "gambling"

Points for/against amendment:

- Students are not allowed to gamble so it is not necessary to add into the motion
- Students are not allowed to take drugs and alcohol, yet they still do
- Students will be allowed to gamble when they turn 18

Carried

Motion Revised:

That the VicSRC research the possibility of developing a partnership with drug, alcohol and gambling associations or community groups to deliver interactive workshops and guest speakers who have first hand experiences; the intention being that students are awakened to the traumatic encounters due to the misuse of alcohol and illicit drugs.

MOTION CARRIED

18 That the VicSRC should distribute to schools case studies of schools that have been successful in cracking down on graffiti, vandalism and littering.

Moved: Ebony Matthews
Seconded: Kallee Sas

Points for:

- Schools do not know how to crack down on these problems and would benefit from these case studies
- Every school is different, meaning that case studies will vary and can be applicable to different areas

Points against:

- Instead of case studies, schools should hire student who create graffiti art and get them to decorate the school
- One solution may not be effective to other schools
- Rather than punishing students schools should reach out to the students currently doing this and focussing on their personal situations, rather than punishing them

MOTION CARRIED

19 That the VicSRC encourage regional clusters to work together to exchange effective policies and strategies on anti-bullying

Moved: Paige Langley
Seconded: Kosh Arulsothy

Points for:

- Schools have anti-bullying policies but is still a problem
- Schools should work together to put effective policies that have worked in one school to others

Points against:

- —

MOTION CARRIED



20 That the VicSRC encourage schools to introduce a compulsory requirement for schools to survey students on particular teachers or subjects at the request of a student.

Moved: Chloe Lazzaro

Seconded: Ellie Patterson

Points for:

- This would improve student-teacher relationships
- Teachers have a say in student behaviour, but students do not, this will improve equality within the classroom and the school
- This is another opportunity for students to have a voice

Points against:

- When students have an issue, they should go to the teacher or year level coordinator, not a survey

Amendment:

- Remove "compulsory"

Rejected

- Replace "lobby the government" with "encourage schools"

Carried

Revised motion:

- **That the VicSRC encourage schools to introduce a survey of students about a particular teacher or subject at the request of a student.**

MOTION CARRIED

21 That all undebated motions be put to the VicSRC Executive for consideration

MOTION CARRIED

The following resolutions were not considered by the Congress due to time constraints but have been referred to the VicSRC Student Executive for consideration.

That the VicSRC formulate an outline of what SRCs should be about and do, and that this outline is adopted by principals, teachers, parents and students.

Moved: Emma Morrissey
Seconded: Samantha Chapman

That each school check with the school SRC regarding student representation on the school council.

Moved: Unknown
Seconded: Unknown

That the VicSRC inform schools that ideas put forward by their SRC individual school councils should give feedback and responses back to the SRC.

Moved: Trent Knight
Seconded: Gordon Ng

That the VicSRC should create an awareness event to raise awareness of what they do for Victorian Schools.

Moved: Alex Coletti
Seconded: Kate Preston

That the VicSRC lobby the government for extra funding to help cover environmental costs in schools and to create a smaller carbon footprint.

Moved: Kieren Galloway
Seconded: Emily Bradford

That the VicSRC encourages peer programs and advertises groups such as Beyond Blue, Way To Be and Reach to deal with issues of self worth.

Moved: Kimberly Paige
Seconded: Emma Morrissey

That the VicSRC creates an action plan for implementation of tandem (recycle and other rubbish) bins (i.e. what you see at the football or train station) and continuously lobby the government and other bodies to make these mandatory in all Victorian secondary schools.

Moved: Emily Roberts
Seconded: Shaf Shariff

That the VicSRC write to schools promoting the implementing of an integrated environmental committee using case studies/model in a better form.

Moved: Tim Eric
Seconded: Jessica Cruz

That the VicSRC should organise a social event to integrate school regions.

Moved: Kate Preston
Seconded: Paige Olsen

That the VicSRC should provide support to school or regions by facilitating events.

Moved: Kim Paige
Seconded: Chloe Lazzaro

That the VicSRC continue to promote drug and alcohol education programs that have age appropriate material that promote a deeper understanding and different perspectives about drugs and alcohol use. For older students case studies of different people affected by addiction should be emphasised. The VicSRC should encourage SRCs to get these programs run in their school.

Moved by: Samantha Chapman
Seconded by: Kimberly Pellosis



RESOLUTIONS

FROM Congress 5: 2010

The following resolutions were debated and agreed to by the Congress. They have been grouped here by common themes.

SUPPORT FOR SRCs

That the VicSRC create an online forum of SRCs on the VicSRC website to facilitate the exchange of ideas and examples of leadership and training.

That the VicSRC lobby the state government to subsidise and introduce mandatory leadership workshops and programs (focused on year 9s) for all Victorian High Schools for at least one day a year.

That the VicSRC write to the government and encourage them to allocate a yearly fund to their SRC and allow the SRCs to use this fund at their discretion.

Promotion of SRC

That the VicSRC should create a video that will be used in schools to promote student involvement in their SRC.

We move that the VicSRC encourage schools to allow SRCs to fundraise for themselves (as a council) and other school projects, both within the school and the community.

SRCs in School Decision Making

That the VicSRC encourage School Councils to discuss and get approval from SRCs in the decision-making process.

That the VicSRC survey School Councils and Principals as to why they will not approve events, then turn this information into a resource that gives schools ideas on how to overcome these disapprovals and have these events approved. Also, case studies of successful events and how they were approved would be included in the kit.

That the VicSRC encourage all SRCs to develop a decision making 'power' map of the school to be posted and be made accessible to all students.

That the VicSRC should work with the DEECD in reforming the current student satisfaction survey, including a mandatory student opinion section.

That the VicSRC encourage schools to introduce a survey of students about a particular teacher or subject at the request of a student.

Bullying

That the VicSRC support anti-bullying campaigns in schools (physical, verbal and cyber bullying) by advertising through VicSRC resources and media and by providing examples of case studies in schools that have been successful.

That the VicSRC encourage regional clusters to work together to exchange effective policies and strategies on anti-bullying.

Healthy Food

That the VicSRC conduct a survey of all Victorian High Schools regarding which healthier canteen options are successful at their schools, then use this information to create a list on the VicSRC website of healthy and cost effective food suppliers to be made available to all schools.

Environment

That the VicSRC emphasise the availability and benefits of government incentives or subsidies to help schools become more environmentally friendly. We propose that this is done by sending letters detailing specific actions that can be taken to Principals and teachers as well as writing an article in the VicSRC Newsletter.

Sexual Diversity

That the VicSRC encourage schools to raise support and awareness for sexual diversity in schools.

Drugs and Alcohol

That the VicSRC research the possibility of developing a partnership with drug, alcohol and gambling associations or community groups to deliver interactive workshops and guest speakers who have first hand experiences; the intention being that students are awakened to the traumatic encounters due to the misuse of alcohol and illicit drugs.

Graffiti, Vandalism and Littering

That the VicSRC should distribute to schools case studies of schools that have been successful in cracking down on graffiti, vandalism and littering.

Executive

That all undebated motions be put to the VicSRC Executive for consideration

Appendix 1: VicSRC Mission Statement

Vision

We want an education system where learning is enjoyable, practical and meaningful and where SRCs are valued and supported to contribute to making this an ongoing reality.

We want a VicSRC that fosters connections between SRCs and is recognised as the peak body for secondary students in Victoria.

Principles

- Student run, organised and initiated
- For the benefit of students
- Inclusive
- Not party political
- Not for profit
- Undertaking investigative representation

Aims

To strengthen SRCs

- By improving the operation of student representative bodies within secondary schools in Victoria.
- By supporting networks between schools at a local level.
- By increasing the profile of student representative bodies in the community.

To be a representative body for Victorian secondary school students

- By providing a network linking students and student representative bodies across Victoria.
- By providing a recognised and student based structure to speak on behalf of secondary students.

To facilitate and co-ordinate action by secondary students at all levels

- By supporting projects, initiatives, and any related activities that secondary students could participate in, and which would be more effective on a larger scale.
- By co-ordinating appropriate activities at a state-wide level.

To be democratic and participatory

- By encouraging students to understand, practise and experience democracy, by being included in decision making at all levels.

Appendix 2: Workshop Topics

Day One: School Issues and Comments

- Bullying
- Littering and Vandalism
- Cafeteria and food issues
- Students engagement with school
- Drug and Alcohol education
- Student Wellbeing and Welfare
- Responses to Climate change

Day Two: SRC Issues

- Student Involvement
- Student recognition in decision-making
- SRC support from school
- Planning Events
- SRC Training
- Links with Primary School SRCs
- SRC Recognition and Credit

Appendix 3: Schools Represented

Antonine College	Melbourne Girls' College
Bayswater Secondary College	Mentone Girls Grammar School
Bellarine Secondary College	Mentone Girls Secondary College
Bendigo Senior Secondary College	Monbulk College
Blackburn High School	Monterey Secondary College
Box Hill Senior Secondary College	Montmorency Secondary College
Braybrook College	Mooroolbark College
Brentwood Secondary College	Myrtleford College
Caroline Chisholm Catholic College	Narre Warren South P-12 College
Casey Grammar School	Pembroke Secondary College
Castlemaine Secondary College (Senior campus)	Princes Hill Secondary College
Copperfield College	Ruyton Girls School
Craigieburn Secondary College	Sophia Mundi Rudolph Steiner School
East Doncaster Secondary College	Taylor's Lakes Secondary College
Frankston High School	Templestowe College
Glen Waverley Secondary College	Toorak College
Goulburn Valley Grammar	Traralgon College (Junior Campus)
Hampton Park Secondary College	The University High
Lilydale High School	Weeroona College Bendigo

The following students were elected onto the VicSRC Executive 2010-11

Kosheni Arulsothy	Melbourne Girl's Secondary College
Samantha Chapman	Casey Grammar School
Tiffany Chapman	Toorak College
Jenesse Cruz	Caroline Chisholm Catholic College
Tim Eric	Frankston High School
Catherine Gilford	Mentone Girls Grammar School
Marlee-Alice Gorman	Princes Hill Secondary College
Elizabeth Kalas	Taylor's Lakes Secondary College
Chloe Lazzaro	Princes Hill Secondary College
Robert Liang	Blackburn High School
Ellie Patterson	Melbourne Girls College
Kimi Pellosis	Frankston High School
Kate Preston	Bellarine Secondary College
Shafiqah Shariff	Narre Warren South P-12 College
Megan Shellie	Mentone Girls Grammar School



NB: Trent Knight, Year 8 from Narre Warren Secondary College and pictured in the group above was elected to the VicSRC Executive, but has subsequently been unable to take up this position. Shaf Shariff is from the same school, and was the next candidate who would have been elected; she has replaced him on the Executive.



**Victorian Student
Representative Council**

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