Appendix D:
The department's progress updates on our recommendations

Figure D1: The department's updates to us on its progress against our 2020 recommendations

Recommendation	The department's proposed actions	2021 update	2022 update	2023 update
1 improves Student Resource Package internal governance arrangements, including: • clarifying roles and responsibilities for overall oversight and coordination of the Student Resource Package • clarifying responsibilities for determining and calculating all individual references • strengthening oversight and controls over systems that it uses to calculate Student Resource Package references • increasing oversight over quality assurance of Student Resource Package input data, eligibility criteria, formulae and allocation calculations • improving oversight over evaluation against the Student Resource Package objectives and reporting on its performance against them.	Establish a new committee to develop an approved and clear governance structure for the SRP in line with the recommendations of the report Develop the governance structure that addresses the following in relation to SRP: • roles and responsibilities for overall oversight and coordination • responsibility for determining and calculating all individual references • strengthening oversight and controls over systems that it uses for calculation • increasing oversight over quality assurance of input data, eligibility criteria, formulae and allocation calculations • improving oversight over evaluation against the objectives and reporting on its performance against them. Seek approval for the new governance structure from the Executive Board and implement it. The committee will meet 4 times a year to monitor and make decisions regarding the new SRP governance structure.	In progress	Complete	Complete
2 regularly reviews the Student Resource Package against its objectives and refines it as required based on evidence.	Engage independent education experts to evaluate the SRP's current objectives to assess suitability for purpose. Engage independent educational experts to evaluate the SRP against its objectives and include a requirement to conduct this review every five years in the SRP governance structure documentation. Conduct the first evaluation of the SRP against its objectives.	In progress	Complete	Complete

Recommendation	The department's proposed actions	2021 update	2022 update	2023 update
	Develop a response to the findings and recommendations of the evaluation.			
3 review the basis of the Student Resource Package's core student learning funding line by assessing school resourcing needs using statistically valid methods and provide advice to government on the results and any subsequent changes necessary to the Student Resource Package.	Undertake analysis and research using a statistical sample of schools to review the SRP's core student learning allocation for all schools and provide advice to the Minister for Education on results and any subsequent changes necessary to the SRP.	**In progress**	**In progress**	**In progress**
4 regularly reviews all individual Student Resource Package references (and updates the formulae, criteria and any other components as required) to ensure funding allocations align with the needs of each school and student cohort in the year of funding, including: • updating the out-of-date information DET [Department of Education and Training] uses to determine school eligibility for each reference • updating school classifications to align with its entity register and applying them consistently.	Develop and implement a clear plan to regularly review all elements of the SRP on a periodic basis, to be determined by the governance committee for each item using a set of tools that assess criticality and materiality of references. Expand the current SRP framework so that it captures all elements of the SRP. Review school and campus eligibility for funding and confirm that the classifications align with the entity register before the publication of each major budget release (indicative, confirmed and revised).	**Complete**	**Complete**	**Complete**
5 develops and regularly maintains a Student Resource Package operating manual that documents: • policy decisions on the purpose and intent for each reference definitions of key terms • details on how funding allocations are to be determined for each Student Resource Package reference, including the formulae, eligibility criteria, exemptions, exclusions and inclusions • specifications of the software used to calculate each reference • the source data, how frequently it is accessed, how it is adjusted and ultimately used to calculate a reference.	Prepare an operating manual that captures: • policy decisions on the purpose and intent for each reference • definitions of key terms • details on how funding allocations are to be determined for each SRP reference, including the formulae, eligibility criteria, exemptions, exclusions and inclusions • specifications of the software used to calculate each reference • the source data, how frequently it is accessed, how it is adjusted and ultimately used to calculate a reference. Regularly maintain the manual, coinciding with the three major releases of the SRP cycle, so that it captures the latest information, highlighting any changes using version control.	**In progress**	**Complete**	**Complete**

Recommendation	The department's proposed actions	2021 update	2022 update	2023 update
6 strengthens and regularly monitors controls over the systems it uses to calculate the Student Resource Package references and assurances over the Student Resource Package by: • restricting and monitoring access to systems used to calculate the SRP, including databases and Excel files, to approved users • logging changes in a secure location and monitoring changes made within the systems used to calculate the Student Resource Package • segregating responsibilities for performing SRP calculations, assuring calculations for each reference (including assuring accuracy of data inputs used), and distributing funds • ensuring the quality assurance over the data inputs comply with the Victorian Government's data quality standard.	Implement tighter controls and assurance over the systems used to calculate the SRP by: • restricting and monitoring access to systems used to calculate the SRP, including databases and Excel files, to approved users • logging changes in a secure location and monitoring changes made within systems used to calculate the SRP • segregating responsibilities for performing SRP calculations, assuring calculations for each reference (including assuring accuracy of data inputs used) and distributing funds • ensuring the quality assurance over the data inputs comply with the Victoria Government's data quality data standard. Regularly undertake a quarterly review of the access to systems and their data bases involved with calculation of the SRP.	**In progress**	**Complete**	**Complete**
7 improves the transparency of the Student Resource Package for schools and the community by: • clarifying the funding sources allocated through the SRP and funding that is excluded • updating the Student Resource Package guide to ensure it fully and accurately explains each reference, and how it is calculated • providing schools with visibility over the references they are eligible and ineligible for and making available data about their school that drives the Student Resource Package.	Transfer the information in the current Guide to the SRP to the Policy and Advisory Library. Expand and clarify the information available to schools and the public through the Policy and Advisory Library in order to: • clarify the funding sources allocated through the SRP and funding that is excluded • update the SRP guide to ensure it fully and accurately explains each reference, and how it is calculated • provide schools with visibility over the references they are eligible and ineligible for and making available data about their school that drives SRP.	**Complete**	**Complete**	**Complete**

Note: See our 2021, 2022 and 2023 Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations: Annual Status Update reports for the department's full survey responses.
Source: VAGO, based on the department's responses to our 2020 report and 2021, 2022 and 2023 surveys.