



In 2014 the DET removed the requirement of schools to undergo a formal accreditation process to become a SEAL school. Thus, any school who has an enhancement program could claim to be a SEAL school. However, there are 38 schools across Victoria that do actually hold the accreditation and are required to meet a set of quality standards in relation to the organisation and teaching program for gifted and high ability students. As a result, The Academy of Accredited SEAL Schools was officially formed.

A management committee was established for the academy and a coordinator has been appointed to oversee the accreditation process across all schools; coordinate meetings between the respective schools and the SEAL coordinators; provide professional development to teachers; and ensure consistency of processes across all schools. These steps will ensure that very high standards at accredited schools.

On 17 November, an accreditation team made up of Mr Rob Newton (recently retired Principal of University High School) and Mrs Deborah Harman (Principal of Balwyn High School) visited Kambrya College to examine our SEAL Program for the purpose of formal accreditation. The outcome of this visit can be summarised in the message below I received from Deborah Harman:

Dear Michael

It was wonderful to visit your school yesterday and hear what marvellous work you are doing with your students. I was most impressed by the work that Jo Wastle and Cameron Denham are leading in your school community with the SEAL program, and will warmly welcome them should they attend the Principal/Coordinators' meetings at Balwyn tomorrow.

I extend an open invitation to you and members of your Leadership Team to visit us and to exchange school improvement stories. I would look forward to such a networking opportunity.

All the best for the remainder of the term.

*Deborah Harman*

The external review of our program provides concrete evidence that our program meets the high standards expected of such a program. To have our SEAL Program accredited by TAASS is a wonderful achievement for Kambrya College!