



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Directorate: Education

Position Number: P68536

Branch: School Improvement

Classification: AS04

Business Unit: Maribyrnong Primary School

Location: Maribyrnong Primary School

Position Title: Finance & Purchasing Officer

Last Reviewed: 25 November 2025

Position Requirements: A current Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration

The Australian Capital Territory Public Service (ACTPS) is a values based organisation where all employees are expected to embody the prescribed core values of respect, integrity, collaboration and innovation, as well demonstrate the related signature behaviours [Values and Signature Behaviour - ACTPS Employment Portal](#)

DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW

The [ACT Education Directorate](#) (Directorate) delivers high quality education services through government schools, registers non-government schools and administers vocational education and training in the ACT. The Directorate aims to develop and deliver educational services to empower each child and young person in the ACT to learn for life.

The Education Directorate is one of seven ACT Government Directorates established with a collaborative purpose to achieve the ACT Government's priorities and to serve the community. The Education Directorate services include the provision of public-school education, regulation of education and care services, registration of non-government schools and home education.

What is important to us: We are an education system that empowers our young people to thrive in ways that foster a democratic, equitable, diverse and prosperous society.

Our Mission: We develop and deliver educational services to empower each young person in the ACT to learn for life.

Our Vision: Our Directorate values of respect, integrity, collaboration, and innovation reflect the employee values of the ACT Public Service. These core values underpin our service delivery and are the cornerstone of our workplace environments. Translating these values into daily practice is an expectation of all ACT public servants.

The ACT public education system continues to expand with over 50,000 students attending 90 public schools, comprising:

- 52 preschool to year 6 schools (including four Koori preschools);
- nine year 7 to 10 high schools;
- eight year 11 and 12 secondary colleges;
- six early childhood schools (preschool to year 2);
- four specialist schools;
- eight preschool to year 10 schools (including one Koori preschool);
- one kindergarten to year 10 school; and
- one year 7 to 12 school.

The Directorate also has responsibility for the planning and coordination of early childhood education and care services for the ACT.

The Directorate is structured around four divisions: School Improvement Division; System Policy and Reform; Business Services Division and Service Delivery and Design. The Directorate employs approximately 7,050 staff including 4,211 school teachers and leaders.

Further information about working in the ACT Public Service and the Education Directorate can be found at <https://www.jobs.act.gov.au/about-the-actps> and <https://www.education.act.gov.au/>.

BRANCH OVERVIEW

The School Improvement Branch works closely with schools supporting them to develop sustainable processes that ensure a culture of school improvement and accountability related to their individual context.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

ACT Public Schools deliver quality education to shape every child's future and lay the foundation for lifelong development and learning. Maribyrnong Primary School in Kaleen. Our enrolment area includes Kaleen, Lawson and Bruce and we have 614 enrolled across 30 classes. Further information about the school - <https://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/home>

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Finance and Purchasing Officer are a key member of Maribyrnong Primary School's front office team, working within a small, collaborative, and highly supportive administrative environment. This customer-facing role is often one of the main points of contact for staff, families, and external suppliers, making professionalism, accuracy, and strong interpersonal skills essential.

This position provides vital financial and operational support to the school, with responsibilities spanning day-to-day finance functions, purchasing and procurement, invoice management, budget administration, and assisting with broader school operations when required. The role offers a balanced mix of tasks—some routine and process-driven, others responsive and people-focused—requiring a person who can navigate competing priorities with confidence and efficiency.

Located in the school's main office, the Finance and Purchasing Officer play an integral part in ensuring smooth financial processes and timely procurement that supports teaching, learning, and school programs. A significant portion of time is dedicated to financial transactions, purchasing, and compliance, while the remainder involves liaising with staff, supporting administrative tasks, and maintaining positive relationships with our community and suppliers.

This role is ideal for someone who enjoys working in a dynamic school environment, values accuracy and organisation, and takes pride in contributing to a team that supports the daily functioning and long-term success of the school.

WHAT YOU WILL DO

This position is an active member of the Front Office Administration Team assisting with the operations of the school business and is accountable to the ACT Education Directorate. The Finance and Purchasing Officer will work under general direction in relation to established priorities, task methodology and work practices to provide support to the Business Manager in the day-to-day administration of the school in line with school requirements and Directorate priorities.

Purchasing and Finance Support

Under general direction:

- Maintain accurate records, monitoring and reporting on staff budget lines and expenditure to ensure financial transparency and accountability.
- Process, reconcile and monitor purchase orders using established school financial systems and procedures.
- Liaise with suppliers, contractors and external service providers to obtain quotes, place orders, resolve discrepancies and support ongoing procurement needs.
- Manage invoicing and receipting processes, ensuring financial documentation is accurate, complete and compliant with ACT Government policy and school procedures.
- Coordinate the placement, checking and distribution of ordered items, ensuring goods received align with purchase requests.

- Follow up and track backorders with suppliers, providing timely updates to staff and ensuring minimal disruption to school operations.
- Ensure accurate accounting and documentation of all purchasing activities, maintaining detailed records for audit and reporting purposes.
- Conduct price comparisons and seek best-value options to maximise school funds while meeting operational needs.
- Review, adapt and refine purchasing requests to ensure cost-efficiency, quality outcomes and alignment with procurement guidelines.
- Provide support and advice to staff on purchasing procedures, financial processes, and the use of school systems as required.

Finance Administration/Management

Under general direction:

- Manage and support finance processes such as receipting of payments, bank reconciliation, banking and initiation of invoices and purchase orders.
- Prepare a range of financial reports, including financial estimates, end of month reporting and six-monthly financial reports.
- Provide support to the Business Manager in the management of the school's financial and school administrative systems.
- Assist in the preparation of school budgets and monitor expenditure against approved allocations; prepare statements/returns to show trends.
- Maintain financial and front office administration using computerized systems including financial packages.

Student Administration

Under general direction:

- Provide appropriate advice and support to staff and parents on student related matters with assistant from senior staff.
- Maintain accurate class and attendance data and enrolment processes.
- Sensitively and confidentially reporting parent or student concerns and other relevant information provided to the appropriate team members with the ability to resolve queries independently.
- Coordinate and manage reporting, student absence/attendance requirements and associated processes in accordance with relevant legislation and Directorate policy.
- Coordinate sensitive documentation by maintaining confidentiality requirements according to relevant legislative and policy principals.

Administrative Support

Under general direction:

- Provide high level administrative support to the Business Manager, Principal, Deputy Principal and executive teachers.
- Provide administrative assistance to the school teaching staff through centralised processes and procedures with the ability to make recommendations for improvement.
- Assist with general office support services which include keyboarding, photocopying, record keeping, database management and reception services.

- Provide administrative support for reporting, including using reporting programs and school specific software including Sentral to effectively manage student services processes.
- Prepare correspondence and reports; provide advice based on knowledge, interpret and apply legislation, policy, procedures and guidelines.
- Prepare school publications/webpage support and preparation of correspondence and communication/promotional materials for distribution/publication.
- Monitor correspondence, including emails and workflow to ensure deadlines are met and matters are attended to in a timely manner in a fast-paced environment.
- Coordinate sensitive documentation by maintaining confidentiality requirements according to relevant legislative and policy principals.
- Maintain a clean and safe work environment for students and staff; undertake relevant workplace health and safety requirements and, where necessary, undertake risk assessments and initiate appropriate action.

Front Office Administration/Reception

Under general direction:

- Provide appropriate advice and support to staff on student related matters.
- Manage the day-to-day operations and administration of the Front Office, coordinate and oversee workflow and priorities.
- Participate in work area business planning and improvement; provide input and assist in the review, development and implementation of policy, guidelines and procedures.
- Manage customer relationships and negotiate with a range of internal/external stakeholders/clients as required. Key stakeholders include teachers, school psychologists, parents/carers and Education Directorate staff.
- Prepare more complex correspondence and reports; create agendas and minutes; provide advice based on knowledge, interpret and apply legislation, policy, procedures and guidelines.
- Develop, implement and maintain processes that contribute to the efficient and effective operations of the team. This includes using Microsoft products and other computer applications (such as Outlook calendar and Mail Merge) to increase efficiencies.
- Maintain a clean and safe work environment for students and staff; undertake relevant workplace health and safety requirements and, where necessary, risk assessments and initiate appropriate action.
- Regularly use ICT systems and databases such as Outlook, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Sentral, and Google products including Google Drive.
- Manage student data and associated records; compile data and prepare reports in line with Directorate/ACT Public Service requirements.
- Coordinate sensitive documentation by maintaining confidentiality requirements according to relevant legislative and policy principals.

Executive Support

Under general direction:

- Provide executive support to the principal and executive staff including diary/calendar management.
- Coordinate and oversee the workflow of the principal's office.
- Develop, implement and maintain processes that contribute to the efficient and effective management of the principal's office/school executive team.
- Coordinate and support meetings, presentations and other school events as required; provide secretariat support including the preparation and distribution of meeting agenda and minutes, drafting and/or collation of papers.
- Manage customer relationships and negotiate with a range of internal and external stakeholders as required.
- Prepare correspondence and reports; provide advice based on knowledge, interpret and apply legislation, policy, procedures and guidelines.
- Participate in work area business planning and improvement; provide input and assist in the review, development and implementation of policy, guidelines and procedures.
- Organise, monitor, order and replenish consumables, equipment and resources; obtain quotes and/or make purchases as required; monitor expenditure against work area budget.
- Coordinate sensitive documentation by maintaining confidentiality requirements according to relevant legislative and policy principals.

Excursion Coordination

Under general direction, work with the Business Manager and Executive teachers to coordinate excursions, including but not limited to:

- Coordinating excursion paperwork, risk assessments, financial approval and Principal approval
- Liaising with teachers, parents and/or students to ensure parental permission is received
- Receiving payments for excursions
- Providing excursion policy advice to members of the school community where appropriate

Teamwork

- Work effectively in a team environment by working with others towards a common goal.
- Plan, set priorities and meet deadlines with minimal supervision.
- Assist other staff to meet team and individual deadlines.
- Understand and work within the ACTPS Code of Conduct and ACTPS values of respect, integrity, collaboration and innovation, and model behavior consistent with the ACTPS Respect, Equity and Diversity framework.

Communication and Stakeholder Management

- Provide excellent customer focused service to students, staff and the school community.
- Develop collaborative relationships with key stakeholders and external agencies with the ability to deal with complex matters with assistance from supervisor.
- Effectively communicate with sensitivity both orally and in writing.
- Prepare documentation such as school newsletters and general correspondence.

Business Strategy and Improvement

- Participate in work area business planning and improvement; provide input and assist in the review, development and implementation of policy, guidelines and procedures.
- Exercise initiative and judgement in solving day to day operational problems and suggests new ways of working to improve service delivery.
- Assist the line area manager to meet the relevant priorities and targets outlined in the school improvement plan and other strategic documents.

Records Management

- Maintain a range of record keeping systems and databases including student files.
- Under general direction, contribute to the compliance of student related information, record keeping and processes according to Education Directorate requirements and legislation.

WHAT YOU REQUIRE

The following capabilities form the criteria that are required to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.

Professional / Technical Skills and Knowledge

1. Demonstrated finance skills with the ability to contribute to a range of financial processes including processing payments, financial reconciliation and financial reporting.
2. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in Purchasing and financial administration, including your ability to manage purchasing processes from end-to-end.
3. Demonstrated high level administrative skills including the ability to operate a variety of computer programs, databases and other records management systems.
4. Ability to interpret and apply rules, regulations and procedures to provide advice and make decisions with general direction under appropriate delegations.

Behavioural Capabilities

1. Well-developed interpersonal, oral and written communication and liaison skills with the ability to communicate sensitively and effectively with a range of stakeholders.
2. Demonstrated commitment and experience in high quality customer service principles and practice.
3. Proven organisational skills with the ability to work effectively in busy situations, in a team environment or independently and the ability to meet deadlines with minimal supervision.

Compliance Requirements / Qualifications

This position requires a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Registration prior to commencing in this role.

Desirables

- Experience in an administration role.
- First Aid Certificate or a willingness to undertake appropriate training.
- Certificate IV or equivalent e.g., Business Administration, Government (School Support Services), Government.
- Business qualifications or experience in a business-related role
- Financial qualifications or relevant experience
- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel, Google and SharePoint.
- Knowledge of school specific software including Sentral and Xero or similar.

Other information

Working in a School Setting Duty of Care

The legal duty of care requires that all staff should take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety of any student. Whilst Administrative Service Officers (ASO) do not have the same level of duty of care as teachers, because of the student/teacher relationship that exists and teachers' professional standing, all staff are required to take reasonable steps to protect students against risks of injury that could have reasonably been foreseen.

The duty is not to ensure that there is no injury but to take reasonable care to prevent injury that could have reasonably been foreseen. The level of duty of care for ASO staff will depend on the individual role and the arrangements put in place by the principal.

All ASO staff are responsible for providing basic physical and emotional care for students. This may include activities such as toileting, assisting with meals and lifting of students and/or the provision of support to students in accordance with approved student health care/treatment plans. The degree of responsibility for these activities will vary depending on the role, individual student needs and the working environment.

Employment conditions

A full-time Administrative Service Officer's ordinary hours of work are 147 hours over a four week period (ie. an average of 73 hours 30 minutes per fortnight or 36 hours 45 minutes per week).

Administrative Service Officers usually work 7 hours 21 minutes per day with an additional 60 minutes for a lunch break.

Administrative Service Officers in schools are required to work during school stand down periods (school holidays), noting that flexible working conditions may apply on an individual basis.

Extracurricular activities

Administrative Service Officers in schools may be required to assist teachers with the care and supervision of students in out-of-class activities including on school excursions, overnight camps and when transporting students to other campuses or facilities.

These school activities may be in addition to their ordinary hours of work. In these circumstances, participation is voluntary and following agreement with the principal, Administrative Service Officers may be granted flex or overtime in accordance with the enterprise agreement.

The degree of responsibility for these activities will vary dependant on the Administrative Service Officer, student needs and environment.

Mandatory reporting requirements

Administrative Service Officers in schools also have an additional responsibility for the care and protection of students. *The Children's and Young People Act 2008* (the Act) identifies certain persons, including teachers and public servants who in the course of their employment works with or provides services to children and young people, as mandatory reporters.

A mandatory reporter must notify Care and Protection Services when they believe, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person has experienced, or is experiencing, sexual abuse and/or non-accidental physical injury.

Reportable conduct

The ACT Reportable Conduct Scheme is an employment based child protection measure designed to ensure that allegations and convictions against employees, related to abuse and misconduct against children, are identified and acted on appropriately. The Scheme was developed in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse and mirrors the NSW system, which has proven to be an effective and successful model.

The ACT Education Directorate is considered a 'designated entity' under the scheme and as such is required to report allegations, offences or convictions relating to child abuse or child-related misconduct by an employee, to the ACT Ombudsman. For the purposes of the scheme, a child is classified as a person under 18 years old.