

Brumby confident of resolving VCA dispute

Posted Thu Aug 27, 2009 11:01am AEST

Updated Mon Aug 31, 2009 11:13am AEST

Victorian Premier John Brumby is confident a dispute over the new curriculum for the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) can be resolved.

He says students should be able to do three-quarters of their study in the area of choice.

Hundreds of students protested outside Parliament last week against the adoption of the so-called Melbourne model, led by the University of Melbourne.

Opponents say the changes would force students to take more generalised, theoretical subjects and would reduce their ability to specialise.

The Premier says Arts Minister Lynne Kosky has taken a proposal to Melbourne University Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis, that students should be able to do 75 per cent of their studies in the core area of their choice.

"So that means if you're studying dance, you do 75 per cent of your time in that. If you're doing film, you spend 75 per cent of your time in that."

Mr Brumby told ABC Radio's Jon Faine that he believes the university will agree to the Government's plan.

"I believe the proposal we put to the vice-chancellor... which by the way, I understand the vice-chancellor is likely to agree to... will resolve the vast majority of concerns about the Melbourne model," he said.

He said Victoria is negotiating with the Federal Government to try and address long-standing inequities in funding that have left the VCA \$5 million short.

"NIDA is funded by the Federal Government at more than \$30,000 a student. Students at the VCA are funded at \$10,000 per student," he said.

"If we can get some movement from the Rudd Government on funding, that would be a great advance," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard acknowledged there had been a lot of speculation about the future of the VCA.

She said the Government will work collaboratively with the VCA, the university and the State Government to resolve the issues.

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Actor Geoffrey Rush addressed the protest rally. (ABC TV: Maris Beck)

- [Video: Melbourne university urged to reconsider arts college overhaul \(Stateline Victoria\)](#)
- [Map: Melbourne 3000](#)