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Independent Schools of  
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## AISNSW 2010 Annual General Meeting

The AISNSW 2010 Annual General Meeting will be held this year on Thursday, 27th May at St Andrew's Cathedral School, Bishop Barry Centre, Drutt Street, Sydney, commencing at 4.00pm.

We are very pleased to announce that the NSW Leader of the Opposition, Mr Barry O'Farrell, will address the meeting and speak about the NSW Coalition's views on a range of educational issues. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask Mr O'Farrell questions about the policies and plans that the NSW Coalition will bring to the NSW State election in March 2011.

The formal notice and invitation to the meeting, including the 2009 AISNSW Annual Report and Financial Statements, will be sent to all member school chairs, principals and business managers in early May.

## Board of Studies Amendments to Registration Manual

The Board of Studies has made a number of important amendments to the *Registered and Accredited Individual Non-Government Schools (NSW) Manual* and the *Registration Systems and Member Non-Government Schools (NSW) Manual* that all independent schools should be aware of. The Board of Studies *Official Notice 05/10*, dated 2nd March 2010, outlines the amendments and this can be viewed on the 'Official Notices' page at [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)

The most significant amendment relates to changed reporting measures required of school annual reports. The AIS is in the process of updating its resource document for member schools to reflect these changes and this will continue to be available from the 'members only' section of the AIS website.

It is important that all independent schools note the changed reporting and other requirements as noted in *Official Notice 05/10* and take the necessary steps to ensure that annual reports on the 2009 school year reflect the changes. The 2009 annual reports must be submitted to the Board of Studies by 30th June 2010.

Member schools seeking advice or assistance about the amendments to the Registration Manual should contact Robyn Yates at ryates@aisnsw.edu.au or on (02) 9299 2845.

## Board of Studies update

Dr Timothy Wright, the independent sector nominee on the Board of Studies, has provided the following key points from the Board of Studies meeting of 30th March 2010.

### Australian Curriculum

The President of the Board commented on the extensive consultation being carried out by the Board's officers on the Australian Curriculum, in addition to the ACARA consultations. NSW is the only educational jurisdiction carrying out an extensive independent process.

Lead inspectors of the Board made extensive presentations on the feedback from the Board's consultation process. It was noted that there was general support for the concept of the Australian Curriculum, although many concerns were also raised. These include:

- an absence of key organisers or objectives
- content descriptions are broad rather than deep
- content does not guide pedagogy
- concerns about inclusivity of weaker students as well as gifted and talented students
- professional development support is needed
- concerns about implementation timelines
- concerns about workload implications, particularly for teachers in K-6, and
- links from the Years 7-10 curriculum to senior curricula.

A number of concerns were raised about particular aspects of the draft curriculums for English, Mathematics, Science and History. A concern was also raised that NAPLAN may become the default curriculum for English and maths and that clearer guidance was needed for approaches to Assessment and Reporting.

### General Matters

The Board of Studies has been delegated CRICOS registration responsibilities from VETAB as part of the review of processes relating to the overseas student service industry. This will include some responsibility for the oversight of education agent activities. More information on this topic is included in the item on 'Overseas Students' below.

The CEO of the Office of the Board of Studies provided an update on discussions with the NSW Ombudsman in relation to HSC processes and the information provided to HSC students. It was also noted that the Board's syllabus evaluation process for 2010 will be suspended given the demands of the Australian Curriculum.

## ISCA-AHISA National Education Forum

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) and the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA) will be holding a joint National Education Forum on Monday, 30th August 2010, at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra. The theme of the Forum is *'Independent Education: An Evolving Future'*.

Keynote speakers for the event include:

- Chris Richardson, Access Economics: *Independent Schools and the Economy*
- Bernard Salt, KPMG: *Key Demographic Messages for Independent School Strategic Planning*
- Dr Ben Jensen, Grattan Institute: *Measuring What Matters – Student Progress*, and
- Professor Barry McGaw, Chair of ACARA: *21st Century Assessment Tools*.

Online registration for the forum is now available through the ISCA website at [www.isca.edu.au](http://www.isca.edu.au) and the AHISA website at [www.ahisa.edu.au](http://www.ahisa.edu.au) and copies of the program are also available from these websites. Registration for the forum closes on 13th August 2010.

## Overseas Students – ESOS Amendment Act 2010 and CRICOS Re-registration

The Australian Government has established the processes for re-registration of all registered providers of education services to overseas students, which must take place before 31st December 2010. This re-registration process is the result of the Australian Government's measures to reduce the incidence of overseas students being placed at risk of non-completion of a course of study and to reduce the incidence of unsatisfactory education providers, primarily in the vocational education and training (VET) industry as has been highlighted in the media over the past 12 months.

All CRICOS registered providers have been asked to apply for re-registration via PRISMS by 16th April 2010. Providers will then be assessed and placed in one of three categories by the designated authorities. The categories are:

- Tier 1 – low risk
- Tier 2 – medium risk, and
- Tier 3 – high risk.

Once applications have been assessed, providers assessed as Tier 1 will be notified that they have been recommended for re-registration. Providers in Tiers 2 and 3 will be asked to complete an online self-assessment within 20 days. Self-assessment will focus on the two new provisions of the ESOS Act, that:

- the principal purpose of the provider is to provide education, and
- the provider has demonstrated capacity to provide education of a satisfactory standard.

It is anticipated that most, if not all, schools whose primary focus is delivering school level (eg. K-12) education will most likely be assessed as Tier 1 (low risk) providers.

Providers that do not apply for re-registration by 16th April 2010 run the risk of having their CRICOS registration lapse and their ability to create Confirmation of Enrolments (COEs) suspended in PRISMS. Schools should contact the Board of Studies directly regarding any questions or concerns about the re-registration process.

## Early Years Learning Framework

The Early Years Learning Framework was released by COAG last year as the first national framework to guide early childhood educators and families in the delivery of quality early childhood education. The new national quality standards endorsed by COAG in December 2009 as part of the new National Quality Framework (NQF) required that *"the EYLF (or another prescribed curriculum framework) informs the development of a program for each child"* in early childhood education and care services that are included in the new national system.

Given the release of the EYLF and the NQF agreement, schools with early childhood services should be aware of the status of NSW's own *Curriculum Framework: The Practice of Relationships* and its relationship to the EYLF.

Community Services has prepared a statement to help schools understand the relationship between the frameworks and this is available at <http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/coag.html>. It is recommended that schools with early childhood services familiarise themselves with this document.

## 2010 Awards for Excellence in School Music Education

Nominations for the *2010 Awards for Excellence in School Music Education* are due to close on Friday, 16th April 2010. The awards aim to recognise music teachers and school leaders for their exceptional contribution to enhancing the status and quality of music education in their schools. Each recipient of an award will receive a certificate and a cheque for \$5,000 which is intended to be used to further their professional learning related to music education.

Details about the Awards, including Guidelines and nomination forms, are available from <http://musicawards.asme.edu.au>

## Premier's Awards for teachers, students and schools

Each year a number of awards for teachers and students in all NSW schools are made available by the NSW Premier. These include:

- **The NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships** which provide scholarships of \$10,000 to \$15,000 and focus on a range of curriculum areas. Winners of the scholarships have the opportunity to undertake a five week study tour focusing on their area of curriculum expertise. Applications close on Friday, 7th May 2010.
- **The Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarships** which are offered to all NSW students of history in Years 9 and 10 to enable them to undertake a study tour to significant sites in Australia's wartime history. Applications close on 23rd July and must be made to the relevant regional office of the DET.
- **The Cohesive Community School Award** which recognises efforts by a school or group of schools in promoting a cohesive community and in making a significant effort towards social harmony and unity. Nominations for this award close on Friday, 3rd September 2010.

More information about each of the above awards, including application details and guidelines, are available from the Department of Education and Training website at [www.det.nsw.edu.au/awards](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/awards)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE THE AIS OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR SCHOOL'S CONTACT DETAILS, INCLUDING CHANGE OF PRINCIPAL, BUSINESS MANAGER AND CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL. CHANGES CAN BE EMAILED TO [admin@aisnsw.edu.au](mailto:admin@aisnsw.edu.au)**

Dr Geoff Newcombe  
Executive Director  
12th April 2010