

The Association of  
Independent Schools of  
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## AISNSW Annual General Meeting

I would like to thank representatives of member schools who attended the AISNSW AGM on 27th May at St Andrew's Cathedral School. The attendance was very pleasing and demonstrated to our special guest, the Leader of the NSW Opposition, Mr Barry O'Farrell, that the sector is united and committed to ensuring that independent schools continue to provide the best quality of education possible to their students and the community.

Mr O'Farrell, in his address to the meeting, made a number of comments that were pleasing to hear. He stated very clearly the commitment of a NSW Liberal/National government to the principle of choice in schooling and to support for families for this choice. He also made a commitment, subject to the outcome of the 2011 State election, to reviewing and improving the current consultation and representation arrangements for non-government schools to ensure that the sector's views are properly considered and represented in key state and federal government deliberations on education matters.

A copy of Mr O'Farrell's address to the meeting will be provided by his office shortly and will be made available to all schools.

We look forward to continuing to work with Mr O'Farrell and the Shadow Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, on important education policy matters between now and the March 2011 election.

## Review of Funding for Schooling

The Australian Government's Review of Funding for Schooling was announced in late April and comments were invited by the Government from all interested parties on the Discussion Paper and draft Terms of Reference during May. The AIS, informed by the AIS Board's Funding Review Committee, is now commencing work on a submission to the review covering a wide variety of funding issues. The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has also made comments on the Discussion Paper and draft Terms of Reference and a copy is available at [www.isca.edu.au](http://www.isca.edu.au)

The AIS has sought commitments from the Government that any outcomes from the review will not result in independent schools having their recurrent funding reduced in real terms, and that the contributions made by parents to their child's education, through payment of school fees and other contributions, will not be discouraged by any future funding arrangements. While we have not yet received such commitments from the Deputy Prime Minister, we will continue to seek a greater degree of certainty from the government in relation to future school funding arrangements.

Schools can access further information on the funding review, including details of how to lodge a submission, from the DEEWR website at [www.deewr.gov.au](http://www.deewr.gov.au)

## Report on Board of Studies meeting

The independent sector nominee on the NSW Board of Studies, Dr Timothy Wright, has provided the following information from the most recent Board of Studies meeting held on 11th May.

- The Board Curriculum Committees will finalise recommended responses on the Australian Curricula for review by the Board of Studies on 1st June 2010. Independent schools have been well represented in the Board's consultation process.
- The HSC timetables were released on *Students Online* ahead of *Schools Online* this year in a deliberate attempt to introduce students to the site and to help them to familiarise themselves with the site. Work is continuing on *Schools Online* to make it more relevant to primary schools.
- The *Board Bulletin* is now produced as an online 'e-zine' format. Heads of Schools, Directors of Studies and Heads of Departments need to be aware of this and ensure that they use their initiative to remain informed about the wide range of important curriculum changes and other Board matters.
- Inclusivity of students with disabilities and special needs remains a significant area of concern in addressing the Australian Curriculum. The Board has also indicated to ACARA the legislative tensions existing under NSW legislation and Commonwealth legislation. This particularly impacts non-government schools operating under Board of Studies Registration and Accreditation and Federal funding agreements.
- The Board has responded to the Deputy Ombudsman's FOI recommendations by examining the current clerical recheck system and considering the release of Band Cut Off marks.

## Overseas students – new requirement for providers

DEEWR advises that all providers of education services to overseas students, including independent schools, are now required to comply with the *ESOS Amendment Act* (enacted on 3rd March 2010) which states that all providers must publish on their website a list of agents that they use. The *ESOS Amendment Act* took effect immediate effect, however providers have been given a transition period, ending on 3rd June 2010, to become fully compliant with this requirement.

To assist schools to comply with this requirement, DEEWR has provided a list of Questions and Answers via the AEI ESOS homepage at <http://www.aei.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/Default.htm#4> (under 'New requirements for the use of agents').

## Important resources for schools - update

Two important resources for schools have recently been updated: the *Privacy Compliance Manual* and *A Guide for NSW Non-Government Schools on Reporting, Disclosing or Exchanging Personal Information for the purposes of Child Wellbeing*.

The *Privacy Compliance Manual* for schools was recently updated by Minter Ellison Lawyers and schools should note, in particular, the amendments made to:

- Part 2, Section 7: Collection Notices
- Part 2, Section 8: Use or disclosure required by law
- Part 3, Section 16: Passing information to other schools
- Part 3, Section 16: Disclosure of information in NSW
- Annexure A: Draft Privacy Policy

*The Guide for NSW Non-Government Schools on Reporting, Disclosing or Exchanging Personal Information for the purposes of Child Wellbeing* examines the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, *Education Amendment (School Attendance) Act 2009*, *Ombudsman Act 1974*, Part 5A of the *Education Act 1990 (Health and Safety risks of schools arising from student behaviour)* and the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* to provide guidance in relation to a school's obligations and rights under New South Wales law. It should be read in the context of these laws providing exceptions to the general provisions relating to privacy which apply to schools and which are set out in some detail in the *Privacy Compliance Manual*.

Both the *Privacy Compliance Manual* and the *Guide* are available on the AIS Website at [www.aisnsw.edu.au](http://www.aisnsw.edu.au) in the Risk and Compliance section.

## National Schools Chaplaincy Program Consultation Process

The 2010-11 Federal Budget extended the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) for all participating schools until December 2011. It was noted that “during 2010 the Government will examine options for future support beyond 2011 through a consultation process.”

The consultation process will examine the effectiveness of the NSCP and its sustainability to address current/future needs and priorities. It will provide a review of NSCP activities and achievements, an overview of student and school support services available outside of the NSCP, and consider the relationship between the NSCP and these services. This will include any gaps or overlaps, an examination of the degree to which chaplains may undertake a unique role and contrast the role of secular support workers and chaplains.

The national consultation process is being undertaken in two stages. The first stage, currently under way and continuing into June 2010, involves stakeholder meetings. Stage two will be conducted from August – October 2010 and will centre around a public discussion paper being developed after completion of the first stage of the consultation process.

Further information about the consultations is available from the DEEWR website at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NationalSchoolChaplaincyProgram/Pages/home.aspx>

## National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census

Schools are encouraged to participate in the National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census, which runs from 31st May to 30th July 2010. The Census will collect data to inform workforce planning for the early childhood sector and will support the Early Years Development Workforce Strategy, which is being developed by the Australian Government. The strategy will assist the government to develop its approach to improving recruitment and retention in the industry.

The Census will gather workforce information from preschool/kindergarten providers, child care services and individual school and early childhood staff. It will also seek information about children with additional needs and access to preschool programs. Information is available from the National Workforce Census hotline on 1800 639 098 or at [nwc@srcentre.com.au](mailto:nwc@srcentre.com.au) or from [www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood)

## Aboriginal Student Summer School

The South Australian Government, in conjunction with partners Flinders University, the University of South Australia and other government and corporate partners, is offering the *Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence in Technology and Science* (ASSETS C21) for Aboriginal students from around Australia.

The 9-10 day summer school residential program for 30 students will take place in December 2010 at the Wiltja Residence, an indigenous boarding school facility. Eligible students are those who:

- Have just completed Year 10 studies
- Have an interest in, and aptitude for, science, technology and mathematics
- Identify with the Aboriginal culture
- Are prepared to challenge themselves academically and culturally

Schools with students who meet the above criteria are encouraged to complete a registration of interest on the students' behalf via the ASSETS website at [www.assetsC21.info](http://www.assetsC21.info). Once an expression of interest has been received the school will be provided with an information package and an admission test for completion by 27th August 2010. Further information is available from the website or the Project Officer, Ian Maynard, at [ian.maynard@flinders.edu.au](mailto:ian.maynard@flinders.edu.au)

## Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2010

The annual Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards are now open for primary and secondary schools to register for a wide range of year level and whole of school awards. The theme for the 2010 awards is '*I Hear Music*' although it is not essential that entries follow the theme. For more information about the awards go to [www.dorothea.com.au](http://www.dorothea.com.au). Entries must be lodged by Friday, 9th July 2010.

**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  
1st June 2010