

The Association of
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AIS Staffing

I wish to inform all schools that Julie Thompson, AIS Director of Professional Development, is currently on sick leave until 2011. During this time Darryl Buchanan will be Acting Director of Professional Development and enquiries about AIS professional development matters and the Independent Schools Leadership Centre should be directed to him.

Federal Election

At the time of writing there was still no clear result from the 21st August election. Regardless of the final result, the AIS will continue to work closely with both major parties on school education matters, particularly in relation to the Review of Funding for Schooling. Both Labor and the Coalition are committed to the continuation of the Review, although the Coalition has stated that it does not intend to substantially change the SES funding model. It has said it will consider the Review's recommendations with a view to 'improving' the current SES funding model.

It remains a concern that the Australian Greens appear to still be committed to substantially changing the current non-government school funding arrangements. With today's announcement that the Labor Party and the Greens have made a formal agreement to work together on many matters, this could impact on Labor's commitment to extending the current funding arrangements by one year since enacting this would require an Act of Parliament to approve the extension. Should the Coalition take office, the Greens influence could also impact on their intention to continue the existing SES model for another four years.

The 'Election 2010' material on the AIS website at www.aisnsw.edu.au/election2010 is still relevant and can be used by independent schools and their communities to lobby their local members to ensure that the needs of independent schools are taken into account.

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 10th August 2010.

Report from the BoS Acting CEO

It was noted that the Board was operating under a regulatory environment that demands more disclosure of information than had been traditional. The BoS website would be the avenue for most disclosure, including the listing of what would not be disclosed such as exam papers in advance. There were issues concerning privacy and commercial in confidence material and the Board would seek to manage this in a “does no harm” framework.

Concerns were raised that ACARA had published aspects of preliminary advice on the K-10 curriculum as the Board's final position. Improving the content descriptions and greater clarity in the achievement standards are two foci for the implementation stage. Concerns were again raised that the revised K-10 draft in English remained problematic. Strong views were also raised about the structure of the senior years including concerns about Sciences, the loss of Extension 1 options in English and Mathematics and the nature of the courses in English and Mathematics.

Other matters

- The HSC Special Provisions processes have been extensively reviewed. The issue of social capital and cultural issues (eg certain groups being very concerned about a child being diagnosed as needing special provisions) preventing access for some students was discussed.
- It is intended to delegate to Principals some lower level of provisions that are non-controversial (such as access to food, water, medication). Streamlining of the application process is being developed.
- A Human Services Curriculum Framework for VET education was endorsed. The course is ATAR eligible (2 Units if students sit the Human Services examination) but will allow delivery at Certificate III level. There is a sub unit in Aged Care Specialisation.
- The Life Skills Stage 6 HSIE syllabus structure was endorsed.
- Delegated authorities: Principals will determine eligibility for access to various language courses, with right of appeal to the Board. The Board CEO will determine acceptability of early commencement for Stage 6 for schools seeking to present subjects at Stage 6 on a compressed or vertical model of delivery (Preliminary and HSC course in one year).
- Terms of reference have been released for the school certificate review and are available from the BoS website at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au
- This year the School Certificate computer skills test will be delivered exclusively online. A pilot of online delivery for the English literacy test will also be conducted.

The Water Education Toolkit

The Australian Government Department of the Environment has launched the Water Education Toolkit which contains a large number of water education resource for teachers to use in classrooms. The website consolidates into one portal more than 1,000 water education materials available on the internet, from a range of national, state/territory, regional and urban government and non-government organisations.

Included are case-studies, lesson and unit plans, visual aids, in-class activities, Indigenous cultural resources, informational resources, games and experiments, among others. Interested teachers can visit the Water Education Toolkit at www.environment.gov.au/wet

Recipients of the 2010 NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships

The NSW Premier recently announced the winners of the 2010 NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships. The scholarships, worth \$10,000 to \$15,000 each, recognise each teacher's commitment to quality education in their field of expertise and are awarded across 15 curriculum areas including English, Science, Special Education, Rural and Remote Education and Environmental Education. The program provides the winners with the opportunity to undertake international study tours in some of the world's best schools and centres of education.

The AIS would like to congratulate the following independent school teachers who were successful in the 2010 NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships:

- **Premier's Anika Foundation Youth Depression Awareness Scholarships**
Mr Daniel Haesler, Emanuel School, Randwick
- **Premier's EnergyAustralia Environmental Education Scholarships**
Mr John Kinniburgh, The Kings School, Parramatta
- **Premier's Kingold Chinese Creative Arts Scholarship**
Ms Luise Guest, Loreto, Kirribilli
- **Premier's Special Education Scholarships**
Mr Timothy Byatt, Alice Betteridge School, North Rocks
- **Premier's Westfield History Scholarship**
Mr Cameron Nunn, St Paul's Grammar School, Cranebrook

Nominations for the Young People's Human Rights Medal

The Australian Human Rights Commission is encouraging young people who have made an outstanding contribution to advancing human rights in Australia, to nominate for the Young People's Human Rights Medal. The Medal is open to those aged 25 years or under on 3rd July this year.

The Commission is seeking nominations from committed, innovative and passionate young people who take it upon themselves to lead the protection of human rights or raise awareness of human rights issues in their communities, colleges, workplaces and schools. Nominations can be made for the Medal and seven Award categories: Law, Community (Organisation), Community (Individual), Literature (non-fiction), Print Media, Television and Radio.

Nominations close at 5pm on Monday, 4th October, 2010 and winners will be presented with their Medals and Awards at a ceremony to be held on Human Rights Day, Friday, 10th December 2010 at the Sheraton on the Park Hotel in Sydney.

Further information, including nomination forms and eligibility details, is available from the Human Rights Commission's website at www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards or by calling (02) 9284 9618 or emailing hrawards@humanrights.gov.au

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

Dr Geoff Newcombe
Executive Director
1st September 2010