

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS (ACSSO)

The national voice of parents of children in Australia's public schools and their school communities

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

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RESOURCES

Fundraising Directory 2007

The *Fundraising Directory 2007*, produced by [Direct Publications](#), will arrive on the doorstep of every school in Australia over the next few weeks.

The variety of products and services contained in this comprehensive fundraising resource will open up more options and ideas for school communities. The directory has been operating online for some time, providing valuable assistance to community groups in their fundraising efforts, with two websites supporting the book:

<http://www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au> and
<http://www.fetesandfestivals.com.au>.

Concurrent with the directory's distribution, Direct Publications is conducting a survey of the community sector, with a **\$5,000** prize draw on offer. **ACSSO** has formed an ongoing and developing association with the *Fundraising Directory 2007* in recognition of the valuable service provided free of charge to parenting bodies in all parts of Australia.

For more information go to the websites or contact Mandy Stevens on 1300 653 305.

"TATTOO" - a SunSmart Teaching Resource for Secondary Schools

Melanoma is the most common life-threatening cancer in young people, yet the latest survey shows that significant numbers of high school students are using less UV protection than they once did.

The Cancer Council NSW is mounting a melanoma awareness campaign to remind teenagers about the potentially deadly consequences of tanning and sunburn. This includes the launch of a Teaching Kit, "TATTOO" – which includes a DVD, curriculum book and interactive lessons encouraging students to reflect on their behaviours and empower them to make better choices.

The kit can be purchased from the Cancer Council of NSW at a cost of \$40.00 including GST and postage. Download the order form at

<http://www.acsso.org.au/tatlookit.pdf> or get more information from <http://cancercouncil.com.au>.

Drug Awareness Program Launches New Website

Drug Awareness Pty Ltd have developed and publish a range of visual drug awareness products – a range of posters and other graphic products that command attention and compel reflection – a starting point and complementary resource to drug education and information programs in your school community. In ACSO's current national mail-out to schools we include an initial flyer provided by the company to introduce their products.

Now they have established their own website at <http://www.drugawareness.com.au/> enabling interested schools and community groups to view the current range of visual products online, **and to order sets of the Drug Awareness Media Kits at \$24.95 each**, including GST, handling and postage within Australia.

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EVENTS

Service-Learning Conference 2007

Secondary Student Youth Stream in Service-Learning in Sydney on 18-20 April 2007

A major focus of this Conference is its **Youth Stream – building and applying leadership skills in young people**. A maximum of 60 subsidised places are available for interested students in **Years 9-11**. Inclusive cost of accommodation, meals and conference program \$75.00.

Schools in all sectors of education from all parts of Australia are encouraged to consider sending students, with a teacher from the school.

• **Further information, online registration and accommodation options can be found at the website: www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au**

• **Registrations close 5 April 2007 – *act now to secure your place – numbers are limited!***

• **Enquiries:** Terrie Jones jonest@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au Mobile 0431 913 773

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OPINION

Time is right for a common curriculum

ACER chief executive **Professor Geoff Masters** was invited by *The Advertiser* newspaper in Adelaide to write an opinion article in response to the release of the ALP position paper on a national school curriculum. The following article was published on 2 March 2007.

This week saw Federal Labor leader Kevin Rudd release an ALP position paper on a national school curriculum. The paper proposes a national curriculum in the core areas of mathematics, English, science and history from Reception to Year 12. The curriculum would identify essential knowledge and skills that all Australian students should be taught, but would leave room for 'sensible' local, regional and state variations.

The ALP paper comes hot on the heels of Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop's call for greater national curriculum consistency and her decision to seek the support of state education ministers to achieve this. Minister Bishop hinted at the possibility of using federal funds to ensure the introduction of a national approach.

So, whether the government or opposition is returned to power after the next election, it seems likely that we will see more common school curricula across Australia.

And it's not before time. Consider, for example, what is happening in the senior secondary school. With a population less than some American states, Australia now has seven government authorities developing nine senior certificates, including the SACE. It has to be asked, in a country of 20 million people, do we really need *nine* senior certificates? As part of these nine certificates, the seven authorities develop 27 different mathematics courses and more than 20 history courses that can be used for tertiary entrance. They also develop other non-TER mathematics and history courses.

The closer one looks, the more obvious the problem becomes ...

Read the rest of the article at
<http://www.acsso.org.au/masters070302.pdf>.

This article was originally published in *The Advertiser*, 2 March 2007, page 20.

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AWARDS & PRIZES

National Literacy & Numeracy Week Minister's Awards 2007

Do you know someone who has made a major difference in the field of literacy and/or numeracy education in Australia who could be nominated for a 2007 Minister's Award in recognition of their efforts?

Five individual Awards of \$10,000 each (\$50,000 in total) are available.

Individuals nominated for these Awards will have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and made a major contribution to the improvement of literacy and/or numeracy outcomes within his/her Australian community over a significant period of time.

There are two categories for nomination:

Category A: for people working as teachers, education leaders or researchers.

Category B: for people acting in a voluntary capacity in literacy and/or numeracy education.

For details about these Awards and how to lodge a nomination go to the Nomination Guidelines and Nomination Pack at <http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au>.

Nominations must be received by 5.00pm AEST Friday 27 April 2007.

National Awards for Quality Schooling Announced

The Minister for Education Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, provided almost \$1.2 million in awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for 63 winners of the Australian Government National Awards for Quality Schooling, in a ceremony at Parliament House on 21 March.

Minister Bishop presented the inaugural Medal of Distinction for the Best National Achievement in School Improvement to South Australia's Seaford 6-12 School, which received \$50,000 to invest in the school community.

"We must have high quality teachers and principals in our schools if we are to raise classroom standards across the country," Minister Bishop said.

"Today's award winners are examples of some of the outstanding teachers and schools in this country.

"There needs to be greater rewards and incentives in salary packages to retain outstanding teachers and to attract more of our best and brightest students into the profession."

Minister Bishop said Seaford 6-12 School was recognised for its excellent achievements in improving the school's performance through a restructured leadership model - demonstrating how effective leadership leads to improved student outcomes.

"The results of Seaford 6-12 School's leadership restructure five years ago

have placed the school at the forefront of school reform and innovation.

"The school has been able to achieve improved academic attainment, greater retention and attendance, a growth in enrolments, improved student wellbeing, improved staff morale, improved parent and student perceptions of the school and heightened student aspirations to pursue tertiary studies."

Full Citations of each Award Recipient can be accessed on the Teaching Australia website at:

<http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au/ta/webdav/site/tasite/shared/2007%20NAQS%20winners>.

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