

# **AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST**

Volume 1 Number 28, 9 October 2007

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Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at [letters@acsso.org.au](mailto:letters@acsso.org.au)

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## **ACSSO NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE - DARWIN 2007**

### **Final Opportunity to Secure Your Place!**

*Monday 22 to Tuesday 23 October 2007*

A small number of places are still available at this major national education forum, where teachers, principals, parents, politicians, education leaders, researchers and academics from all sectors of education join in lively discussion about the strategic directions for education and the big issues bearing on the learning and development of all young Australians now and into the future.

Presentations and panel discussions are complemented by a range of information displays bringing you current information and resources in education.

For information and registration: <http://www.acsso.org.au/natconf07>

### **Themes & Presenters**

#### **Keynote Addresses: Future Directions for Education**

Ms Margaret Banks, Chief Executive, Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education & Training

Mr Stephen Smith MP, Shadow Minister for Education & Training

#### **Better Deals for Indigenous Education**

Mr Tony Mackay, President, Australian Curriculum Studies Association; Executive Director, Centre for Strategic Education

Mr Charlie King, Sports Commentator, ABC "Territory Sport" Presenter

Ms Annarella Sebbens, NT Department of Health

Mr Dean Warren, National Participation Manager, Australian Football League

#### **Rethinking Rural, Regional and Remote Education**

Mr John Halsey, Executive Officer, Rural Education Forum Australia; Senior Lecturer, School of Education, Flinders University

#### **Values in Education**

Mr Angelo Gavrielatos, Senior Vice President, NSW Teachers Federation

Ms Jennifer Branch, President, Australian Council of State School Organisations

Ms Deborah Cohen, Education Manager, Australian Children's Television Foundation

#### **Leveraging Technology**

Mr Chris Althaus, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association  
Microsoft, Spokesperson yet to be confirmed  
Mr Neil Groll, CTO, Leopard Laboratories

### **Music, Dance and Culture: Building Bridges and Opening Doors**

Associate Professor Martin Jarvis, Charles Darwin University

### **Realising Australia's Language Potential in a Global World**

Mr Rob McConchie, Director, Solved at McConchie Pty Ltd  
Ms Anna Dall, Conducting International Research at University of the Sunshine Coast  
Dr Philip Mahnken, Chief Curriculum Designer, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, USC  
Dr George Quinn, Head & Senior Lecturer at the Southeast Asia Centre  
Ms Fiona Mueller, Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia  
Ms Marlene Dingle, Regional Coordinator Languages, VIC Department of Education & Training  
Professor Michael Clyne, Professorial Fellow, School of Languages, Monash University

### **Good Neighbours, Sharing the Future**

Ms Kathe Kirby, Executive Director, Asia Education Foundation

Read more at <http://www.acsso.org.au/natconf07>

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## **RESEARCH & REPORTS**

### **The Future of Schooling in Australia**

*A Report by the Council of the Australian Federation - September 2007*

#### **Extract from the Executive Summary:**

The Adelaide Declaration on National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century was jointly signed by States, territories and the Commonwealth in 1999. It was a significant agreement that committed all Australian governments to a national framework for schooling and established cooperation between governments as the means to achieve the best possible results for all Australian students.

Eight years on, the States and territories believe it is time to reassert the importance of national collaboration to promote high-quality schooling for all Australian students, whatever jurisdiction, school system or individual school is involved.

Chapter 1 of this report outlines significant educational reforms of the last decade achieved through collaboration between the States, territories and Commonwealth. These include the development of national statements of learning and increased availability of data on student performance.

Chapter 2 details the evidence that Australian students perform well at an international level. Evidence is also provided that the Australian school system is, however, less equitable than the systems of some other similarly high-performing countries.

Chapter 3 discusses the key challenges facing schooling in 2007. Among these are an increased awareness of the importance of schooling to future economic prosperity, the ever-increasing environmental and technological challenges and the need for students to reap the benefits of globalisation.

Chapter 4 comprises a new statement on the future of schooling in Australia. It proposes a new national framework for schooling and is based on the axiom that the quality and performance of teachers, schools and school systems are central to the life prospects of every student and to national prosperity.

Chapter 5 sets out a fourteen-point action plan to be used by the States and territories in consultation with relevant organisations, including representatives of the Catholic and Independent school sectors. The last of these fourteen points is to take this document to the ministerial Council on education, employment, training and Youth Affairs (mCeetYA), with a view to establishing in 2008 a mCeetYA endorsed successor to the Adelaide Declaration and an associated action plan.

Read more at <http://www.acsso.org.au/futureofschooling.pdf>

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## Political Comment:

### Federal Labor Welcomes Positive Contribution by States and Territories to the Future of Schooling

*Stephen Smith MP 25 September 2007*

Federal Labor welcomes today's release of 'The Future of Schooling in Australia', a report by State and Territory Governments through the Council for the Australian Federation (CAF).

The Report emphasises the importance of collaborative federalism between the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and the Catholic and Independent school systems in order to improve educational outcomes for young Australians and our nation.

The Report underlines Federal Labor's call for an 'Education Revolution'. It recognises that education is crucial to Australia's future economic prosperity and is the critical driver for maximising individual potential and providing equality of opportunity.

"I certainly see the Report as a sound basis for the Commonwealth, States and Territories working together to improve educational outcomes, should Federal Labor be elected to office," Shadow Minister for Education, Stephen Smith, said today.

Read more at: <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0907/msedut251.php>

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## PRIMARY SCHOOL CHARTER

### History Lost in New School Charter

*The Australian - Justine Ferrari, Education writer | October 02, 2007*

A new primary-school charter has ditched history as a core subject in favour of the broader "social education", which includes geography, the environment and civics.

The Australian Primary Principals Association yesterday launched its final version of the charter, which is designed to drop courses such as bicycle safety and animal care and focus on the key areas of English, maths, science and, now, social education.

A draft version published in August named history as the fourth area, but after consultation with principals and teachers in government, independent and Catholic schools, it was included in social education, which as well as geography and the environment will include other cultures and places, and how decisions are made in Australia.

APPA president Leonie Trimper said the association was not entirely happy with the name "social education" and was working on a different title.

But she said it was not intended to mimic the high school subject of Studies of Society and Environment, which states and territories have agreed to drop in favour of traditional disciplines.

"We had feedback that history was far too narrow and conjured images of students just learning dates," she said.

"The emphasis is on children learning about their identity and stories about significant Australian events and people, but the thought was we needed to have some geography to do that, and people also wanted to include the term environment."

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22516524-2702,00.html>

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## **FEDERAL FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM**

### **\$190 million support package for students with autism**

*Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Education, Science & Training 3 October 2007*

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, welcomed today's announcement by the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, of a package of measures to support children with autism and their families and teachers.

"This represents a thoughtful and thorough package of initiatives, which will provide a substantial increase in support for children with autism, their parents, carers and their schools," Minister Bishop said.

"We know that the more we assist these children early in their lives the easier it will be for them to attend school and to participate in everyday life."

The package contains new Medicare items, early intervention measures and two specific education-related measures:

\$16.3 million for professional development for teachers and other school staff, addressing special learning needs; and

\$7 million for workshops and information sessions to provide better support for parents and carers.

"Schools are facing increasing difficulties meeting the needs of children with autism, and providing teachers with high-quality professional development will better equip them with the skills and confidence they need to meet the needs of students with autism," Minister Bishop said.

"Families and carers also play a vital role in their children's education. The workshops and information sessions will make available expert advice and information to support children more effectively."

For more information on the new measures, visit:

[http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2007/Media\\_Release24599.cfm](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2007/Media_Release24599.cfm) and

<http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/autism>, or call the Help for children with autism Inquiry Line on 1800 289 177 and TTY 1800 260 402.

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## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

### **Legislation to Support New Certificate of Education**

*Hon Jane Lomax-Smith News Release 27 September*

Legislation to support the Rann Government's \$54.5 million revamp of South Australia's high school certificate has been introduced into State Parliament today.

The Bill proposes to amend existing 24-year-old legislation and will provide a foundation for the governance and management of a new South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

The Rann Government is updating the SACE, which is nearly two decades old, to make it more relevant to students, employers and the community in the 21st Century.

Senior school students in Government, Catholic and Independent schools will begin the new SACE from 2009, with the first students graduating in 2011.

A new SACE is part of \$84m of senior secondary reforms, including 10 Trade Schools for the Future and a new requirement for young people to be 'learning or earning' until they turn 17 from 2009.

Read more at <http://www.ministers.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=2214>

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## REMINDERS

### Australian Government's 2008 National Awards for Quality Schooling

#### *Nominations Close 15 October 2007*

Who have you nominated?

Teachers invest much of themselves in their teaching and make a genuine difference in the lives of students.

Play a part in recognising and rewarding teacher achievement by nominating an inspirational teacher, principal, support staff member or school for a 2008 national award.

Further information: <http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au> Free call: 1800 131 323

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**Australian International Education Conference** - Melbourne - 9 to 12 October  
<http://www.idp.com/aiec/>

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**2007 ACEL International Conference** - Sydney - 10 to 12 October  
<http://www.aceconference2007.com>

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**Anti-Poverty Week** - 14 to 20 October - <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>

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**UNICEF Day for Change** - 24 October - <http://www.unicefdayforchange.org.au/>

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**Curriculum Corporation Annual Conference** - Sydney - 12 & 13 November  
<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/conference/2007/conference.asp?id=19468>

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**ACSSO National Education Conference** - Darwin - 22 & 23 October  
<http://www.acsso.org.au/natconf07>

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## RESOURCES

**Fundraising Directory** - <http://www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au> and  
<http://www.fetesandfestivals.com.au>

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**Drug Awareness Website** - <http://www.drugawareness.com.au/>

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**Australian Schools Directory** - <http://www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au>

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