

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

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HOT TOPIC: EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

MCEETYA Launches National Statement on Education and the Arts

The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training & Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) has endorsed and released their National Statement on Education and the Arts.

This Statement is underpinned by three key principles:

All children and young people should have a high quality arts education in every phase of learning

Creating partnerships strengthens community identity and local culture

Connecting schools with the arts and cultural sector enriches learning outcomes.

Ministers' Message:

"The Adelaide Declaration on National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century provides a framework for national collaboration to meet the educational challenges of our times.

"This new National Education and the Arts Statement aims to build on that framework to foster a culture of creativity and innovation in Australia's school systems in partnership with creative individuals and organisations.

Read more at

http://www.mceetya.edu.au/verve/_resources/Nat.ed_statement_septv2_1.pdf

Arts Education: It's Basically Essential!

National Association of Visual Arts 10 October 2007

It is imperative that all political parties recognise the crucial importance for Australia's future of the newly released National Education and the Arts Statement.

Its first key principle is that "All children and young people should have a high quality arts education in every phase of learning".

The National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) congratulated the Cultural Minister's Council (CMC) and the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth

Affairs (MCEETYA) for their far sightedness and understanding of what is needed for all 21st century children.

Tamara Winikoff, Executive Director of NAVA said today, "We believe that arts training must be provided as one of the basics in education, and call on all political parties to make election commitments to the practical implementation of the principles in the Statement.

"Visual interpretation and expression are now essential communication skills needed and used daily by kids on mobile phones and computers. If the schools can't teach the understanding and application of visual language, we will be producing a generation of children who are visually illiterate

"Alternatively, if these principles are embraced and applied across Australia, in one generation we will become a genuine global competitor in the knowledge and service economies".

Read more at

<http://www.visualarts.net.au/newsdesk/2007/10/artseducationbasicallyessential>

A National Review of Visual Education in Australia's Schools

A national review of visual education in Australian schools was commissioned by the Australian Government through the Department of Education, Science & Training (DEST) in 2005.

That review process was based upon the principle that visual communication skills, including the visual arts, are now as important as literacy and numeracy. It will identify the conditions that need to be in place for good practice in education in visual arts, craft, design and visual communication - and outline improvements that should be made.

The four key focus areas are:

- Notions of visual capability, especially in relation to visual arts, craft and design
- Analysing current curriculum provisions
- Examining teaching methods
- Preparation of teachers through teacher education programs

This national review is managed by the Australian Council for the Arts and co-funded by the DEST through their research programme.

The Centre for Learning, Change and Development at Murdoch University has been commissioned to carry out the review, which commenced in June 2005 and was intended to be completed by mid 2006.

The final Report is now scheduled to appear by the end of 2007.

Read more at <http://www.education.murdoch.edu.au/clcd/docs/visarts.html>

Joint Declaration on Art, Music, Drama & Theatre in Education

UNESCO World Arts Conference: March 2006

In a visionary agenda in the aftermath of World War II, UNESCO recognised the unique role that arts education can play in the creation of a culture of peace, international understanding, social cohesion and sustainable development.

However, at that time very few could have anticipated the socio-cultural needs that would be generated by the accelerated technological change during the intervening decades, and today few can imagine the impact and challenges of technological convergence in the immediate future.

We believe that today's knowledge-based, post-industrial societies require citizens with confident flexible intelligences, creative verbal and non-verbal communication skills, abilities to think critically and imaginatively, intercultural understandings and an empathetic commitment to cultural diversity.

Research increasingly shows that these personal attributes are acquired through the process of learning and applying artistic language.

Read more at <http://www.acsso.org.au/unesco071016.pdf>

The Importance of Arts To Education

One of the most important aspects art shows in the results of extensive studies that have proven that students who participate in the arts score higher on SAT tests regardless of socio-economic status.

The arts instill foundation skills needed for employment, but also for life, skills like reasoning, making decisions, thinking creatively, solving problems and visualizing.

An 11-year study examined youth in low-income neighborhoods and found that those who participated in art programs were much more likely to be high academic achievers, elected to class office, participate in math and science fairs and win academic awards.

Art programs targeted toward very young children help prevent negative choices later on. Young children who participate in after-school arts programs have shown a decrease in negative behaviors and increases in attention span, commitment and tolerance.

Read more at <http://www.arvartscenter.org/education.htm>

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HOT TOPIC: TEACHING AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

The Teaching of Australian History in Schools

Hon John Howard MP. Prime Minister 11 October 2007

Last year, I called for a root and branch renewal of the teaching of Australian history in our schools.

In August 2006, the Government convened the Australian History Summit to begin this process.

The Summit recommended that the teaching of Australian history be an essential, required and core part of all students' schooling in years 9 and 10.

Subsequently, the Government commissioned the Australian History External Reference Group to develop a Guide to Teaching Australian History in Years 9 and 10, building on earlier work of Associate Professor Tony Taylor.

The Reference Group consisted of Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Dr Nicholas Brown, Dr Gerard Henderson and Mrs Elizabeth Ward.

I am pleased to publicly release the Guide today. It outlines the breadth and depth of historical knowledge and skills that every Australian school student should acquire by the end of Year 10.

Without being restrictive, the Guide sets out in a sequential narrative the subject-matter which should be included in a course on Australian history at this level.

Read more at http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2007/Media_Release24615.cfm

To obtain more information and a copy of the Guide go to <http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/australianhistory>.

Importance Of Australian History As Part Of A National Curriculum

Stephen Smith MP, Shadow Education Minister 11 October

Federal Labor believes that the study of history, particularly Australian history, is an essential part of the school curriculum.

This is reflected by history being a key element of Labor's National Curriculum plan.

As well, Federal Labor supports history being a compulsory component of the curriculum for parts of the secondary school years.

Australian history is a critical part of the curriculum and should be included in all years of schooling, not just for a few years in secondary school.

A Rudd Labor Government will work cooperatively with the States and Territories through Labor's National Curriculum Board to implement a rigorous, content based national history curriculum for all Australian students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Federal Labor welcomes today's release of the 'Guide to Teaching Australian History in Years 9 and 10' by the Australian History External Reference Group.

Read more at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1007/msedut110.php>

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HOT TOPIC: CHAPLAINS IN SCHOOLS

National School Chaplaincy Programme - Round Two Announced

Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Education, Science & Training 12 October 2007

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, has welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement that 1238 schools will receive grants worth \$69.2 million under the second and final round of the National School Chaplaincy Programme.

"I congratulate the 829 government schools and 409 non-government schools, which will receive up to \$20,000 per year over three years to assist them with providing pastoral care, and supporting student wellbeing and spiritual development," Minister Bishop said.

The Chaplaincy programme, announced by the Prime Minister last October, will help many schools access these services for the first time, as well as enabling the expansion of many existing chaplaincy services.

Read more at <http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Bishop/2007/10/B004121007.asp>

Further information on the National School Chaplaincy Programme is at:
www.dest.gov.au/schools/chaplains

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WEB RESOURCES

WA Website Resource Assisting Students with Learning Difficulties

Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Education, Science & Training - 9 October 2007

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP today launched new website content to support the literacy skills development of students with learning difficulties in Western Australian schools.

"The Greenhouse (A Climate for Growth) Learning Difficulties - Literacy resource will provide teachers of students with learning difficulties with access to information, research, professional development, and opportunities for networking with peers," Minister Bishop said.

"This innovative on-line resource is easily accessible and practical, and will be a great tool for teachers in Western Australia, particularly teachers in remote areas of the state.

"The Australian Government supports the right of students with learning difficulties to have the same educational opportunities as other children."

The additional information added to the existing site has been developed as part of a \$4.5 million suite of research projects funded by the Government under the Effective Teaching and Learning Practices for Students with Learning Difficulties Initiative.

The project was undertaken by the Western Australian Department of Education and Training, the Catholic Education Office of WA, and the Association of Independent Schools of WA Inc.

The website content was compiled over two years. Researchers collected information through interviews, surveys and a focus group of teachers and educators of students with learning difficulties.

Read more at <http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/tsld>

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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

High Satisfaction Levels with ACT Public Schools

Minister for Education and Training Andrew Barr, 10 October 2007

Every year the Department of Education and Training surveys parents, students and staff on their satisfaction with their school, with the education the school provides, on whether the school has high expectations in all that it does and specifically for staff, whether they are satisfied with the work they do.

"The results of this year's survey, contained in the Department of Education and Training's Annual Report, shows a high level of satisfaction with our public schools," Mr Barr said.

"Some 92% of primary school students and 82% of those in high schools said they were satisfied with their schools," Mr Barr said.

"For parents and carers the figures are even better - in the primary school sector 96% were satisfied with their child's school and in high schools it reached 89%."

Mr Barr said the Annual Report contained further good news around the provision of education and the high standards the schools employed.

"In high schools, 86% of parents and 87% of students were satisfied with the education the school provided; in primary schools the figures were 95% and 92% respectively," he said.

Read more at http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/minister_media.asp?section=56

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

National Science Week 2008 Grants - Applications Close Friday 19 October 2007

National Science Week has a reputation for having a lasting impact on perceptions of science and its applications.

The Australian Government supports National Science Week in a variety of ways, including through the National Science Week Grants Programme.

Australian Government funding is available on a competitive basis from the Science Connections Programme (SCOPE) for National Science Week projects. The Science

Connections Programme is funded under Backing Australia's Ability and is administered by the Science Awareness Section of the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Funds available for National Science Week grants in 2008 total \$500,000, applicants can apply for between \$2,000 and \$40,000.

The 2008 National Science Week grants round opened on 17 September 2007, and will close at 17:00 AEST Friday 19 October 2007.

Read more at <https://sciencegrants.dest.gov.au/SCOPE/Pages/Grants.aspx>

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REMINDERS

Anti-Poverty Week - 14 to 20 October - www.antipovertyweek.org.au

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

ACSSO National Education Conference - Darwin - 22 & 23 October
www.acsso.org.au/natconf

21st Century Curriculum: Taking Bearings - Curriculum Corporation 14th Annual Conference - Sydney - 12 & 13 November
<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/conference/2007/conference.asp?id=19468>

ACOSS National Annual Conference - Adelaide - 22 & 23 November
http://www.acoss.org.au/upload/events/3125_ACOSS%20Draft%20Conference%20Program.doc

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RESOURCES

Fundraising Directory - www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au and
www.fetesandfestivals.com.au

Drug Awareness Website - www.drugawareness.com.au/

Australian Schools Directory - www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au

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