

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

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Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at letters@acsso.org.au

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HOT TOPIC: EARLY CHILDHOOD

A Service Centre for Kids

Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Prime Minister

My proposal for Australia in the year 2020 is to create universal, high quality, affordable Parent and Child Centres for all 0-5 year old Australian children. I believe such centres could offer real, practical assistance to working families under financial pressures struggling with the practical challenges of raising very young children.

These Parent and Child Centres will bring together maternal and child health, long day care and preschool into one stop shops for parents with young kids. The goal of this ambitious proposal would be to offer all parents with 0-5 year olds access to a one stop early childhood centre that provides:

- maternal and child health services such as baby health checks, baby weighing, feeding advice and vaccinations;
- long day care including play-based activities for children whose parents are at work or studying;
- preschool and early learning including age-appropriate play-based learning provided by a four year qualified teacher; and
- playgroups and parental support and advice to ensure parents have a place to meet their peers and get access to advice while their children play.

This model would require partnerships between Federal State and local governments as well as existing private and community service providers. The aim would be to provide most of these services at low cost to parents - however some services on offer (such as long day care services) would continue to be fee-based but with the cost still subsidised by the Government.

Access to these Parent and Child Centres would be universal, but not compulsory, and the quality of service provided would be underpinned by strengthened national quality standards. Some or all of the services offered in these centres could be supplied by the private sector and would be subject to competition between providers, helping to drive quality up and prices down.

A single service centre model for all 0-5 year olds would offer great benefits to kids, great benefits to parents, and great benefits to the whole community. It would improve the quality of health and education and care services for 0-5s, with:

- Better quality care that is underpinned by strengthened national quality standards;
- The introduction of more four year trained early childhood education professionals for all young children regardless of age; and
- Provision of education, health and other supports for children to make sure they are developing both physically and intellectually.

These Centres could improve the level of support for parents:

- Providing convenient health, education and care services for working parents;
- Providing age-appropriate services for parents with several kids under 5; and
- Providing opportunities for non-working parents to meet, to develop peer supports and to access advice while their children play.

These Centres could also improve outcomes for the whole community:

- Making better use of early childhood resources, reducing duplication, which means more money for frontline services;
- Freeing up capacity to strengthen national quality standards; and
- Providing additional support to disadvantaged families to improve the life chances of their children.

A little over a century ago, few would have dreamt that today we would have universal and affordable schooling for our children.

We have already set ourselves the goal of introducing universal preschool services for all four year olds by 2013. We should aim to take the next step and create universal Parent and Child Centres for all children aged 0-5 by 2020. Early childhood reform lies at the intersection of our aspirations for this nation:

- lifting long term productivity and participation through greater investment in education, particularly the early years;
- a commitment to reducing the cost of living pressures on working families; and
- a serious effort to reducing the opportunity gap that holds back children from disadvantaged families and communities across the nation.

This proposal builds on the extensive research which has already been done on the critical impact of a child's early nurturing, care and engagement with learning, on every aspect of their later life.

This is an edited excerpt of a speech to the Sydney Institute.

Read more at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0408/mspm170.php>

Raising Australia: children come first

Toby Hall, Canberra Times 21 April 2008

The Prime Minister's suggestion for early childhood centres is excellent and long overdue.

Research clearly points to the need to invest heavily in early childhood and, unfortunately, Australia is incredibly low on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development rankings for what it spends in this field.

It's right that we consider this a national "future" problem for discussion at the 2020 Summit because if we want social inclusion and a successfully educated population which in turn will provide a

successful economy and arts, sports and scientific sectors we need to make sure our children get the best start in life.

But research suggests that childhood centres will not be enough on their own. So what else is needed?

Firstly, forget about starting the focus at birth we need to start pre-birth. What happens during pregnancy has a significant impact on the future of our children.

Too many children today are damaged during pregnancy. We need to support soon-to-be parents to ensure pregnancies and newborn children are as healthy as possible.

Secondly, the most important thing in a child's life is not clever programming or medical experts but a loving bond with a parent. Being one of only two Western nations that does not have a paid maternity leave strategy, we are denying many parents the opportunity to bond with their children. Equally, we need to create an environment where (after paid maternity leave) parents can afford to spend healthy amounts of time with their children.

Read more at <http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/news/opinion/opinion/raising-australia-children-come-first/1227513.html>

Use schools during holidays: McKew

Samantha Maiden The Australian April 18, 2008

MAXINE McKew wants the nation's classrooms open for business during holidays to provide vacation care and take the pressure off working parents.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Childcare, charged with overhauling early childhood services by Kevin Rudd, said she wanted a national debate on the issue.

Spruiking the benefits of the Prime Minister's 2020 idea to offer one-stop baby health and childcare centres, Ms McKew said yesterday the next challenge was helping parents juggle their four weeks of annual leave with up to three months of school holidays.

One option canvassed by Ms McKew was more flexible arrangements allowing workers to "buy" more annual leave by taking a pay cut - a move backed yesterday by unions.

But another of her suggested options, to use "grandparents clubs" in school classrooms to help provide vacation care, sparked a warning from the nation's principals.

"I am putting it out there because I know it is what drives parents nuts," Ms McKew told The Australian. "You go through the whole 0-5 years period but your problems aren't over once your children hit the school system. In fact, parents hit a whole other set of challenges.

"We've got all this school infrastructure. Let's rethink how we can use it 12 months of the year."

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23558038-2702,00.html>

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OPINION

A Vision for 2020: Achieve Equity in Education

A Contribution to Public Discussion of the 2020 Summit Ideas, by national independent education advocacy group Save our Schools

1. The priority is to improve equity in education

Education is central to the future of all Australians. It is fundamental for all Australians to have a successful adult life and to participate fully in adult society. Principles of fairness and social justice demand that children from different social backgrounds have an equal start in adult life. A vision for 2020 should be to achieve equity in education.

While Australia has high average education outcomes it is far from achieving equity in education.

First, a significant proportion of young Australians do not receive an adequate education. Over 30% of all students do not complete Year 12. About 13-14% of 15 year-old students do not achieve expected international proficiency standards in reading, mathematics and science.

Second, there are large achievement gaps between students from low and high socio-economic status (SES) families and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

Students from high SES families have much higher education outcomes than students from low SES families:

- 41% of students from low SES families fail to complete Year 12 compared to 22% of students from high SES families;
- On average, 15 year-old students from low SES families are over two years behind high SES students in reading, mathematics and science;
- 22-23% of students from low SES families do not achieve expected international proficiency standards in reading, mathematics and science.

Non-Indigenous students achieve much higher education outcomes than Indigenous students:

- 60% of Indigenous students who start secondary schooling do not go on to Year 12 compared to 25% of all students;
- On average, 15 year-old Indigenous students are over two years of schooling behind non-Indigenous students in reading, mathematics and science;
- 38-40% of 15 year-old Indigenous students do not achieve expected international proficiency standards in reading, mathematics and science compared to 13-14% of all Australian students.

Increasing the proportion of all children who receive an adequate education and reducing the large achievement gaps between rich and poor students and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students should be fundamental goals in Australian education to 2020.

In essence, the challenge remains to achieve the National Goals for Schooling all Australian Ministers of Education signed up for in 1999.

Read more at <http://www.valuesineducation.org.au/pdf/sos0804.pdf>

OPINION

Need for remedial action on public schooling

Barbara Preston, Canberra Times, 28 April 2008

The Commonwealth must act to reverse the residualisation of public schooling. Otherwise there will be increasing inequity and social division, reduced bridging social capital and reduced educational, social, cultural and economic benefits.

This residualisation is largely caused by Commonwealth policies since the 1970s. Individual families (and communities) make decisions about schooling within this policy framework.

The 1973 Karmel committee provided the basis of current policy and noted: "There is a point beyond which it is not possible to consider policies relating to the private sector without taking into account their possible effects on the public sector, whose strength and representativeness should not be diluted. As public aid for non-government schools rises, the possibility and even the inevitability of a changed relationship between government and non-government schooling presents itself."

In 1976 public schools ' increasing enrolment share reached 79%. Then government funding of non-government schools reversed the trend.

In 1985 the Schools Commission again alerted us: "A continuing significant decline in the government school sector's share of overall enrolment is likely to change substantially the social composition of the student population in government schools, with potentially significant negative consequences for the general comprehensiveness of public school systems.

"The effect of these financial, educational and social consequences could, in the long term, threaten the role and standing of the public school as a central institution in Australian society.

"Such a development would be unwelcome to most citizens and is inconsistent with the stated policies of government as well as the major school interest groups, government and non-government."

Public schools' enrolment share is now 66%. Census data shows an increasing concentration of low socio-economic status students in the contracting government sector and an increase in high socio-economic status students in the expanding non-government sectors.

The Government must take action if it wants a positive education revolution. Otherwise, it might be just a continuing downward spiral.

This article was printed as a Letter to the Editor in the Canberra Times 28 April 2008

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HOT TOPIC: SCHOOL FUNDING

ACT: Funding boost for neediest students

Emma Macdonald Canberra Times 18 April 2008

Canberra's most disadvantaged students will have access to millions of dollars of extra Commonwealth funding after federal Education Minister Julia Gillard agreed not to hold the ACT's middle-class status against it.

Under previous funding deals, Canberra's high socio-economic status ruled out needy students from extra financial assistance.

This was because the funding model used the average income of a student's postcode to assess need, instead of individual family circumstances. The Australian Bureau of Statistics does not place any ACT postcode in the bottom 25 per cent of Australia.

ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr said the first meeting of Labor education ministers yesterday was a huge breakthrough for the ACT.

"It might be true we are a middle-class city, but I made the argument that the Commonwealth needed to look beyond postcodes and to the financial circumstances of each student," he said.

He used the example of Red Hill Primary, which is in one of Australia's wealthiest postcodes but also enrolls students from much lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Under the new National Partnerships Agreement, ACT students will be assessed on their individual household income. Mr Barr said the new money worth millions to the ACT would start to flow next year, once details of the 2009-13 funding agreement were worked out.

Read more at <http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/news/local/general/funding-boost-for-neediest-students/1226251.html>

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HOT TOPIC: TEACHERS' PAY

Attention please, ministers, it's time for leadership on teacher pay

The Age -Editorial Opinion April 17, 2008

AYEAR ago, the states stood as one to oppose then federal education minister Julie Bishop's attempt to introduce merit-based pay for teachers. Under Ms Bishop's vision, based on a report by the Australian Council for Educational Research, principals would have been given more power to pay teachers according to how much they contributed to students' results, rather than years of service and experience.

Teachers would have been assessed on a range of criteria, including the academic performance of their pupils, feedback from students and parents, and the attainment of higher academic and professional standards through greater levels of professional development.

The Bishop plan, while lacking in detail, had some merit. Yes, the criteria for assessing performance needed much closer examination. Yes, teachers work in teams, in areas such as the VCE and literacy and numeracy, making judging individual performance difficult. In addition, as the research council warned, across-the-board pay based on merit would require a new funding model - way too hard in what was an election year.

A year on, the divisive debate over how to pay teachers has grown rather than subsided. So has the debate about how to lift teaching and education standards. The Australian Education Union wants teachers to be paid more, and it is fighting hard.

As talks began in South Australia yesterday on a new enterprise bargaining agreement, the union rejected an offer of a 9.75% pay rise over three years. It is asking for a 21% rise, smaller class sizes and a commitment to attract and retain staff. In Victoria, rolling stoppages continue over a 3.25% wage offer. Today more than 300 teachers in South Gippsland are expected to strike - the first in a string of regional four-hour stoppages.

Next month teachers are threatening to block national literacy and numeracy tests. The tests, for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, are hoped to provide the first accurate snapshot of how the nation is performing on these basic educational goals.

The industrial action and the lack of what appears to be an accepted national position on teachers' pay will almost certainly provide a powerful backdrop to today's ministerial talks - widely billed as an unprecedented opportunity for the Labor states to achieve significant reform.

The challenge for the ministers - apart from negotiations on a national curriculum in mathematics, English, science and history and over teacher accreditation and school resourcing - is to get beyond the stigma of the Bishop pay model and develop another, more workable strategy that provides similar outcomes. First steps are needed. The ministers must not be captive to the notion that measuring teacher performance belongs in the too-hard basket. It's time for effective leadership, not political point-scoring.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/editorial/attention-please-ministers-its-time-for-leadership/2008/04/16/1208025283149.html>

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HOT TOPIC: SAFE SCHOOLS

Parents angry at violent school bully game

Daniel Emerson Sydney Morning Herald 17 April 2008

Parenting and education experts have savaged the release of a controversial new video game based on schoolyard bullying, which features animated blood and violence, sexual themes, crude language, and alcohol and tobacco use.

Bully: Scholarship Edition, packaged in Britain as Canis Canem Edit, Latin for "dog eat dog" pits schoolchildren at a fictitious boarding school against one another in a violent struggle for control of the campus.

It's maker, Rockstar Games, which produced the Grand Theft Auto series in which players steal cars and interact with prostitutes, describes its latest character as "Jimmy Hopkins, a teenager who's been expelled from every school he's ever attended".

The game's rating is listed on an Australian government classification website as M, meaning it does not carry the age restriction attached to the higher MA15+ rating.

Young Media Australia president Jane Roberts said the game was a more inappropriate "mark II" of the original Bully game released two years ago.

"I'm not sure about what the developers of this game don't get," she said. "We have had major efforts right across Australia in schools trying to get the message across that violence doesn't solve anything.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/games/school-bully-video-game-blasted/2008/04/17/1208025350669.html>

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RESEARCH

A study into the teaching of geography in years 3-10

Erebus International / Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

A Study into the Teaching of Geography in Years 3-10 discusses current practice in the teaching of geography in Australian schools and factors which affect the quality of teaching and learning of geography.

It also investigates the fundamentals that every Australian student should know in the subject before they complete Year 10 and provides a sample national Years 3-10 geography curriculum framework to stimulate further discussion.

Read more at <http://www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/8221F0DF-E962-402E-A64E-0D26B910F328/21023/geographyreport.pdf>

Protecting Children from Tobacco: NSW Government Issues Discussion Paper

Stafford Sanders 21 April 2008

"You'll be pleased to know the NSW government has released its foreshadowed raft of proposed measures on "Protecting Children from Tobacco" - including options we've been campaigning for, including:

- banning point of sale tobacco display;
- restrictions on under 18 selling of tobacco;
- tobacco seller licensing; and
- making cars carrying children smoke-free.

Also proposed are measures not specifically endorsed so far by our coalition, including:

- a total ban on tobacco vending machines;
- tighter proof of age controls;
- a limit of one point of sale per outlet; and
- no tobacco in shopper loyalty programs.

The proposals will be strongly supported by the community. The foreshadowing of these moves came about after we put our case to Cancer Minister Verity Firth last year, and the release of this discussion paper comes a week after we delivered our latest updated kit and covering letter to every NSW MP.

Some measures are already in force in other Australian and overseas jurisdictions, so media reporting of NSW about to have Australia's and even (says the Sydney Telegraph) the world's "toughest anti-smoking laws" are a bit far-fetched; but these proposals would certainly be a big step forward and are worth having plenty of input into. It would be great if there were separate submissions from as many organisations as possible.

We expect we will need to argue strongly against retaining a 1 sq m display limit, and/or a push to exempt particular retailers - I'm sure you'd agree that every bit of promotion left visible to children, and every practice which increases sale to minors - i.e. children selling - is unacceptable, whatever the revenue arguments.

We also anticipate some vested interests will argue against the vending machine ban, seeing it as connected with gaming or alcohol revenue. We look forward to some lively discussion on these points.

The discussion paper will be at www.health.nsw.gov.au and submissions are open until June 22.

Latest research and worldwide developments can be found at http://www.ashaust.org.au/lv3/action_POS.htm. "

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AWARDS & PRIZES

Budding young historians invited to rise to the Challenge

Hon Julia Gillard MP, 23 April 2008

Entries will soon open for the 2008 National History Challenge following the announcement today of the Challenge theme: Australia Meets the World.

The Challenge is a research based contest that gives students the opportunity to develop the skills of an historian through an investigation of the past. All students from Years 5 to 12 around the nation are encouraged to take part in this exciting experience.

Winners will be rewarded with cash prizes and a trip to Canberra. Students who enter the Challenge may submit essays, museum displays or audiovisual presentations.

Through the Challenge, students can investigate their community, explore their past, examine major events that have helped Australia evolve as a nation, or formulate new ideas and theories.

Finalists from each State and Territory will be flown to Canberra to compete for the national title of the Australian Young Historian of the Year. Each finalist will receive a cash prize and a medallion. The Australian Young Historian of the Year will receive \$500, a plaque and a certificate.

The 2008 National History Challenge will undoubtedly produce more fine examples of student achievement and show how Australian students are developing their research skills while learning more about our nation's past.

Students are now able to register online and entries will close August 2008.

Read more at <http://www.historychallenge.com.au/>

Eureka Science Prizes 2008

Final Reminder to Schools - Entries Close on Friday 2 May 2008

Australia's premier science awards program, the Museum of Australia Eureka Prizes 2008 - is closing for entries this Friday, 2 May 2008.

This is your last chance to lodge your entry for consideration in this year's prize categories for schools:

- Action Against Climate Change (Sponsored by Macquarie University)
- Science Teaching (Sponsored by Smart Population Foundation, and University of Technology, Sydney)
- Sleek Geeks Science Prize - Primary School (Sponsored by University of Sydney, Faculty of Science)
- Sleek Geeks Science Prize - Secondary School (Sponsored by University of Sydney, Faculty of Science)

Read more at <http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka/>

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2008

Sydney High School Goes Solar Solo

By Kerry Brewster ABC Apr 18, 2008

For 10 months, pupils at Sydney's Pittwater High staged raffles, manned stalls and lobbied local businesses, raising \$85,000 to go solar.

"We could no longer sit on our hands and hope that others would do something about global warming," Pittwater High School principal Russ Cusworth said.

"We're certainly not in it for the money. In fact, it's a very, very expensive exercise and we are a public comprehensive high school."

Photovoltaic or PV panels run 10 classrooms and during the holidays the school hopes to feed electricity into the grid, eventually powering the surrounding suburb.

"If a school can do this, so can a hospital, so can a shopping centre, so can a factory," Mr Cusworth said.

But Australia lags behind other countries in offering incentives for schools, hospitals or factories to feed solar power into the grid.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/04/18/2220973.htm>

RESOURCES

[ACSSO Website](#)

If you have not already had opportunity to do so, we invite you to visit and browse through the redesigned ACSSO Website, at <http://www.acsso.org.au>.

Not only does the new layout reflect the most current design and presentation standards, while the structure makes navigation simple, fast and efficient, but also all information services on the site have been comprehensively revised and updated. These include in particular:

An overview of ACSSO's current array of National Projects, with a summary of each plus direct links to further relevant information on each project

A listing of ACSSO's current range of Publications, with direct links to each of these, and also to Submissions made to recent national review and inquiries of major strategic importance.

A completely revised and expanded range of Links to relevant website based information resources across the field of education, categorised by:

- Australian Links
 - Political party Federal spokespersons on Education (5 links)
 - Education Departments at federal, state & territory (9 links)
 - Australian Organisations, Interest Groups & Resources (30 links)
- International Links
 - Organisations researching the role of Parents and Families in Education in UK, Europe & USA (9 links)
 - Organisations representing the interests of Parents and Families in Education in UK, Europe, Canada, USA and New Zealand (80 links)

The site also includes a complete archive of the weekly E-Newsletter "Australian Education Digest" and the periodical "Public Education Voice".

These and all other information features on the Website will continue to be updated and extended as required from week to week through the year.

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

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Walk Safely to School Day

2 May 2008

Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

Read more at <http://www.walk.com.au>

Download the Information Kit for Schools and Teachers at
http://www.walk.com.au/WSTSD01/images/elements/contentpics/2008/PDF/WSTSD-2008_InformationKitforTeachers_v4.pdf

Australian Parliament House Open Day in Canberra on 10 May 2008

The actual 20th anniversary of the opening of Parliament House, Canberra is on 9 May.

The occasion is being celebrated with an Open Day at Parliament House on 10 May, and will include tours, exhibitions and entertainment.

The official ceremony will be held in the Great Hall of Parliament House, beginning at 10am.

Read more at <http://www.aph.gov.au/Openday/index.htm>

2009 Summer School For Australian Teachers

The Biennial Freilich Foundation Summer School on Bigotry and Tolerance

18-21 January 2009 - Australian National University, Canberra

'Religion and Bigotry'

The aim of the school is to explore the relationship of bigotry with religion in the context of current social issues looked at from an interdisciplinary perspective. Inevitable this will lead to discussions on the relationship of religion with law and politics. Equally the question of bigotry will occur not only as a phenomenon between religions but also within religions.

The 2009 Summer School is open to interested primary and secondary teachers currently teaching in an Australian school, or others involved in educational areas within Australia. Applications will be judged by the Summer School's stakeholders.

The Summer School will meet the costs of tuition and most meals and, upon application, the School will also meet the costs of travel and accommodation for 10-15 participants (air travel will be economy, return airfare from applicant's [Australian] point of departure to Canberra airport).

Please complete an Application Form and forward as directed. Applications close at cob 10 October 2008.

Read more at <http://www.anu.edu.au/hrc/freilich/> or <http://law.anu.edu.au/nissl/ss09.html>

Back to School 2008

Now in its 6th successful year of operation, the Education Foundation's "Back to School" initiative is the nation's biggest celebration of public schools and the inclusive values-driven learning and development experiences they provide for today's young people and tomorrow's citizens.

Everyone who has gone on to a fulfilling career knows that our public schools are well worth celebrating and supporting. A fantastic way to show your appreciation is to go back to your school, spend the time to tell your story and share your insights with staff, students and parents.

Back to School also encourages schools and teachers to keep in touch with their alumni, and let them know that their achievements are valued and celebrated by their school and its community.

Students and teachers love to hear from people who went to their school. Graduates of the public school system, can add real value by sharing their reminiscences, career choices and experiences. This gives young students a living perspective on life beyond the school, helping to fuel their ambitions and give them the confidence to find their own way forward at a crucial time of their lives.

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

Download the Back to School Guide at http://www.backtoschool.org.au/media/BTS_Guide_2008.doc

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REMINDERS

21 April-16 May - Boys, Engagement, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying & Learning - Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Sydney - <http://www.radii.org/aben>

2, 9, 16 May - Marketing Seminars for Schools - Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney - <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/schoolsseminar>

2 May - Walk Safely to School Day - <http://www.walk.com.au>

2 May - entries close for Australian Museum Eureka Science Prizes - <http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka>

2 May - entries close for AEU Rosemary Richards Award - <http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Women/RRichards.html>

14-15 May - National Conference on Children & Young People with Disability and their Families - Melbourne - <http://www.nds.org.au/conferences/CYF2008/home.htm>

28-30 May - Council of Education Facility Planners International Conference - Melbourne - <http://australasia.cefpi.org/>

30-31 May - Early Childhood Education Conference - Melbourne - <http://www.togetherwegrow.com.au/index.shtml>

1-30 June - MS Readathon - <http://www.msreadathon.org.au>

2 June - entries close for Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards - <http://www.dorothea.com.au/>

3-6 June - International Conference on Learning - Chicago, USA - <http://www.LearningConference.com>

11-12 June - National Conference on Climate Change - Canberra - <http://www.manningclark.org.au/events/conference2008/index.html>

26-28 June - World Education Forum SA International Conference - Adelaide - <http://www.infront.com.au/evt/wef/>

28 June - Early Childhood Teachers Association National Conference - Brisbane - http://www.ecta.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=17

6-9 July - National Conference for Teachers of English Literacy - Adelaide - <http://www.englishliteracyconference.com.au>

6-9 July - Annual Conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association - <http://www.asta.edu.au>

9-12 July - Environmental Education Up The Track - Darwin - <http://www.cdu.edu.au/ehs/AEE/>

17-19 July - International Conference on Education, Economy & Society - Paris, France -

<http://education-conferences.org/default.aspx>

25-27 July - NSW Federation of Parents & Citizens Associations State Conference - Albury -
<http://www.pandc.org.au/>

31 July-1 August - Isolated Children's Parents Association Annual Conference - Hobart -
<http://www.icpa.com.au/Conference.asp>

16-24 August - National Science Week - <http://www.asta.edu.au>

18-31 August - ANTSEL Video Online Conference - <http://www.cybertext.net.au/antsei2008.htm>

27-29 August - Society for Provision of Education in Rural Australia Conference - Melbourne -
<http://www.spera.edu.au>

28-29 August - Professional Development Network 12th Annual School Leaders' Conference - Gold Coast -
<http://www.griffith.edu.au/education/centre-leadership-management-education/events/leadership-conference-2008>

9 September-2 October - Australian Computers in Education Conference - Canberra -
<http://www.acec2008.info/default2.asp?orgid=1&suborgid=12>

10-12 September - World Conference on Mental Health Promotion - Melbourne -
<http://www.margins2mainstream.com/>

19-20 September - AASE/AJCPTA National Conference - Fremantle - <http://www.gemspl.com.au/aase/>

30 September-3 October - National History Teachers' Conference - Brisbane -
<http://www.gha.com.au/conferences.htm>

1-3 October - VETnetwork Australia National Conference - Sydney -
http://www.vetnetwork.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=47

7-10 October - Australian International Education Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.idp.com/aiec/>

20-21 October - ACSSO National Education Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.acsso.org.au>

25-28 October - International Research Conference on Service-learning and Community Engagement - New Orleans, USA - <http://www.researchslce.org/2008conference.html>

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RESOURCES

Announcing a New Range of Free Student Diaries for 2009

A new range of free Student Diaries is being launched to assist secondary schools in their forward planning for 2009. The diaries are customised to your school, and will carry a personalised cover - designed by one of your students, who is then automatically entered into a nationwide cover artwork competition

These diary ranges are produced by Academy Publishing, who have been actively involved in the education sector in Australia for the past seven years, and have produced secondary and tertiary sector diaries in New Zealand for many more years.

For more information and contact details: <http://academypublishing.com.au/>

Fundraising Directory - www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au Also: www.fetesandfestivals.com.au

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

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