

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

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HOT TOPIC: TEACHER RECRUITMENT & REMUNERATION

Give our teachers lures - and rewards

Katie Lahey, the Age, May 27, 2008

The present teaching system won't get top results from teachers or students.

The work done by teachers in classrooms is vital to the future of our nation. Business leaders are acutely aware of this.

More than ever before, our skills and knowledge are the drivers of innovation and economic prosperity. Equally, education is not just a driver of economic success. It is also the key to every individual leading a meaningful and rewarding life.

Research has identified the quality of teaching as the single most important factor when it comes to improving learning for all students.

Despite widespread recognition of the importance of teaching, Australia does not have a remuneration system that adequately rewards high-quality teaching.

On average, the most a classroom teacher can aspire to earn is just over \$70,000 a year. This does not compare well with other professions.

For these reasons, the Business Council of Australia is proposing that new national teaching standards should be developed that reflect high-quality teaching. These standards should form the basis of a new national approach to recognising and rewarding high-quality teaching.

This approach is set out in a paper, *Teaching Talent: The Best Teachers for Australia's Classrooms* that the BCA has released. It was researched and prepared by education experts at the Australian Council for Educational Research.

Read more at <http://business.theage.com.au/give-our-teachers-lures-and-rewards-20080526-2if9.html>

Attention Class: Time to Do Our Sums on Better Teaching

Media Release, Business Council of Australia, 26 May 2008

Australia's best teachers should be paid almost \$130,000 as a key step in recognising their value to society and strengthening the teaching profession, a new BCA paper says.

The paper also recommends creating two new levels of teacher certification beyond initial registration, to allow the best teachers to be recognised as 'accomplished' and 'leading', as part of a much needed overhaul of remuneration.

The BCA today launched its new paper *Teaching Talent: The Best Teachers For Australia's Classrooms*, which calls for a five-point plan to recognise outstanding teachers and to lift the standard of teaching in Australian classrooms.

"Teachers are a key to unlocking our nation's economic and social potential, but their contribution to society is being greatly undervalued," the Chair of the BCA's Education, Skills and Innovation Task Force, Hutch Ranck, said.

"The quality of learning by our children is critical in ensuring Australia has the skills and knowledge required to meet its future challenges, and quality and effectiveness of classroom teachers are the most important influences on effective learning.

"Nobody can believe that capping the top salary for classroom teachers at about \$70,000 places enough value on the enormous contribution they make to the future prosperity of our nation.

"Stakeholders are unanimous that the first step in achieving improved outcomes for individual students in education is to attract the best people into teaching.

"While salary may not be the strongest reason teachers choose to enter the profession our research shows it is a key reason many talented people decide to avoid teaching.

"This is a concern if we want our education system to be among the world's best," Mr. Ranck said.

The Teaching Talent paper, prepared for the BCA by the Australian Council for Educational Research, focuses on what Australia needs to do to raise the quality of teaching in all schools for the benefit of every student. It recommends:

- Recruiting the most talented, capable and committed people into the teaching profession;
- Introducing new national certification system that recognizes excellent teachers and provides the basis for a new career path for the profession;
- A new remuneration structure that rewards excellent teachers and demonstrates that, as a society, Australia values the teaching profession;
- A comprehensive strategy that supports teachers in continuing to learn and improve their teaching throughout their careers; and
- The introduction of a national assessment and accreditation system for teacher education courses.

Read more at <http://www.bca.com.au/Content/101445.aspx>

Download the report at <http://www.bca.com.au/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=436>

A 'clever nation' needs its teacher shortage filled, pronto

The Age, Editorial, May 25, 2008

CALLING all potential physics, maths, information technology, languages other than English, and special education teachers: your country needs you. More particularly, Victorian children need you, if a report to the State Government on teacher supply and demand is anything to go by.

The report paints the picture of a rapidly ageing workforce, set to rise over the next five years, with a predicted shortfall of 500 secondary-trained teachers.

Once the large group of teachers who were recruited during the 1970s start to retire, the teacher shortage will only worsen - in fact, the largest grouping of teachers in Victorian schools is those aged 50 to 54.

Alarming as a teacher shortage is, it is a story that seems to be on permanent playback. We have been hearing about a looming, then real, teacher shortage for many years now yet the situation does not seem to be improving.

We know that some subjects, such as sciences and languages, are in particular shortfall, as are some geographic areas.

It is time to stop talking about it and actually do something about it, to solve the immediate problem and ensure we don't continue hearing about it in years to come.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/editorial/a-clever-nation-needs-its-teacher-shortage-filled-pronto/2008/05/24/1211183180717.html>

Catholic schools get honours in teacher recruitment

Justine Ferrari, The Australian, May 21, 2008

IT seems the nation's governments could learn something from the Catholic schools.

While state and territory governments face losing 40 per cent of their teachers to retirement in the next five to 10 years, Catholic schools in Sydney are enjoying the benefits of young blood entering the profession.

The average age of a teacher in a Catholic school is 40, almost 10 years below the national average, and more than one in five is younger than 30, compared with about one in 10 government school teachers.

The low attrition rate is even more impressive. While about 20 per cent of beginning teachers expect to quit the profession within five years, the Sydney Catholic schools system loses only about 6 per cent.

Executive director of schools at the Catholic Education Office Kelvin Canavan attributed the figures to a strategy to recruit students from school and university into teaching, and provide a mentoring program when they start.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23733181-5006784,00.html>

HOT TOPIC: FUNDING

Better education for all students must be the goal

The Age, Editorial, May 26, 2008

Private schools should not dismiss out of hand federal government ideas for a new funding model.

Ten years ago a newly elected federal backbencher gave his maiden speech in which he raised the many problems that he believed beset the country's education system. As Prime Minister a decade later, Kevin Rudd still speaks passionately about the power of education, describing it as the engine room of equity. Indeed, his "education revolution" is a major plank in his government's social policy.

Last week, Mr. Rudd's Education Minister, Julia Gillard, advanced federal Labor's apparent commitment to reform in this area when she raised the possibility of a new funding model for private and public schools. In a speech to the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, she announced that a review of the current funding model for private schools would be finished by 2012 - funding that she said the Government would maintain until that time - and that she expected new arrangements to begin from 2013.

What exactly these new arrangements will be is not yet entirely clear, but would be developed around the idea that the way in which private schools are funded should be extended to those in the public system, a system that educates the greater majority of Victoria's children.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/editorial/better-education-for-all-students-must-be-the-goal/2008/05/25/1211653847055.html>

Private schools overtake unis in funding

Anna Patty, Sydney Morning Herald May 14, 2008

FEDERAL funding for private schools is set to eclipse public investment in universities.

Budget papers show that the Government's investment in higher education and private schools was tied at about \$6.3 billion this year.

But by 2012 universities will receive \$7.3 billion while private schools will get \$7.7 billion.

The Federal Government will increase funding for private schools from \$3.1 to \$3.5 billion over the same five-year period.

The Government has ignored a federal Department of Education review commissioned by the former government which revealed that independent schools would receive over four years \$2.7 billion more than their strict entitlements this year under the Commonwealth funding system for private schools.

While the Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, has committed the Government to maintaining the controversial system for the next four years, she has dumped the Howard government's literacy and numeracy initiative, instead planning to redirect the funding.

The Coalition government's program included summer schools for teachers, tuition vouchers for parents of struggling students, and special rewards of up to \$50,000 for schools that performed well in literacy and numeracy tests.

Read more at <http://business.smh.com.au/private-schools-overtake-unis-in-funding-20080513-2dv6.html>

RESEARCH

P-12 schools 'could do better'

Caroline Milburn, The Age, May 26, 2008

MOST of Victoria's growing number of prep to year 12 schools are not fulfilling their potential.

A review commissioned by the State Education Department into state, Catholic and independent P-12 schools found most have not developed or improved as they could have because they continue to operate as if they are separate primary and secondary schools.

"There is little evidence that P-12 schools are developing a plan for seamlessness or of continuity, or even identifying the characteristics or qualities of a seamless curriculum across the P-12 spectrum," the review says.

Victoria has about 190 P-12 schools that provide both primary and secondary education, with more than half operating in the independent school sector. Most are in regional Victoria. However, the number in urban areas is growing because of changes in demographics and the merger of schools with dwindling enrolments.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/p12-schools-could-do-better/2008/05/23/1211183116772.html>

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Chris Sarra: No excuses for indigenous students

Justine Ferrari, The Australian May 26, 2008

THE indigenous community has to discard the misguided notion that gaining an education makes them less Aboriginal.

One of the nation's most respected indigenous educators, Chris Sarra, has called on the Aboriginal community to ensure children take their rightful place in the Rudd Government's education revolution.

Ahead of his address to the National Press Club today to mark Sorry Day, Dr Sarra said Australian society had to stop making excuses for Aboriginal students being chronic under-achievers who failed to attend school, and expect the same of them as any other student.

He said the Aboriginal community had a responsibility to embrace the education revolution and discard any idea that it threatened indigenous culture.

"We have to stop making excuses now and stop thinking schools are turning our kids into being like white kids," he told The Australian.

"We have to understand the more educated we become, the greater the scope for us to enhance our culture and sense of Aboriginal identity."

Dr Sarra is a member of the federal Government's Australian Social Inclusion Board, announced last week, and director of the Indigenous Education Leadership Institute in Queensland.

He was principal of Cherbourg State School, with a predominantly indigenous student population, where he introduced initiatives that cut absenteeism by 94 per cent and brought literacy and numeracy results to the state average.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23757180-12332,00.html>

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2008

Kevin Rudd's energy strategy 'flawed' says Productivity Commission

Matthew Warren and Christian Kerr The Australian May 23, 2008

THE Government's leading economic think tank has launched a scathing attack on one of Kevin Rudd's most significant climate change policies - the mandatory renewable energy target - claiming it will drive up energy prices and do nothing to cut dangerous greenhouse gas emissions.

In a carefully timed submission to the Government's climate change policy review, the Productivity Commission also flagged a review of tax distortions that increase emissions, such as the generous fringe benefit tax treatment of motor vehicles.

Following the recent debate over a possible cut in fuel excises to relieve the cost burden on motorists, the commission has also encouraged the Government to put up fuel prices by including transport fuels in an emissions trading scheme from 2010.

The Government's chief climate change adviser, Ross Garnaut, has already signalled concerns about Labor's ambitious election promise to set a mandatory renewable energy target of 20 per cent of power to be generated through sources such as wind and solar energy by 2020.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23744414-11949,00.html>

Tim Flannery warns coal: go green or pay price

Brad Norington, The Australian - May 27, 2008

ENVIRONMENTALIST and author Tim Flannery has warned Australian coal companies they will face penalties unless they develop green technology over the next two to three years.

The 2007 Australian of the Year yesterday took aim at coal companies for "failing to comprehend" that they risked paying carbon taxes after 2010 unless they changed their ways.

Professor Flannery spoke to The Australian after giving a speech to a local government conference on the Gold Coast, in which he also urged the Rudd Government to boost its clean coal technology spending from \$500 million to \$5 billion.

He said that only Australia and Germany had the capacity to develop demonstration models. With China building one new coal-fired power station every week, he said Australia had a responsibility to give the Chinese the technology to reduce greenhouse gases as soon as possible.

Earlier at the conference, Professor Flannery warned the coal industry to act swiftly, otherwise the world would face irreversible damage in 10 years.

"We should be demanding that the coal industry develops these technologies in the next two to three years, to demonstration stage, with penalties otherwise," he said.

In a spirited attack on complacency among leading coal miners, Professor Flannery said: "The coal industry never ceases to amaze me.

"They sit up there in central Queensland denying they've got a problem, raking in the profits ... but when is the day going to come when they dip into their own pockets to buy their industry a better future, a sustainable future?"

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23764179-11949,00.html>

Green damage bill '\$3.3 trillion'

The Australian, May 19, 2008

The destruction of flora and fauna is costing the world €2 trillion (\$3.3 trillion) a year, or 6 per cent of its overall gross national product, according to a report published by German news weekly Der Spiegel.

The European Union and German environment ministry-led research, entitled The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, was presented today at the ninth conference of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn.

Der Spiegel will present extracts from the paper, with the study's lead author, Pavan Sukhdev, a senior figure with Deutsche Bank in India, writing: "The world's poor bear the brunt of the cost."

Der Spiegel says German Chancellor Angela Merkel will announce a sharp increase in her country's funding to combat deforestation in line with Norway, which ploughs \$US500 million (\$530 million) a year into forest retention.

Deforestation - a huge factor in species loss and global carbon emissions contributing to climate change - is a central theme of this year's conference in Bonn, formerly the capital of West Germany.

Read more at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/news-biz-2008-04/?articleid=142>

RESOURCES

Educational Experience

"Educational Experience began its operations in Newcastle NSW in 1977 and today is Australia's leading supplier of educational resources and equipment to child care centres, preschools, OOSHs and primary schools. We remain dedicated to the supply of creative and practical ideas to help children learn and develop and are the Teacher's choice for variety, quality and customer service.

At present Educational Experience's product range consists of over 8,500 product lines showcased in our annual Teachers Catalogue. Our speedy delivery is recognised as being the most efficient and reliable service offered in the industry. The products sold by Educational Experience are sourced from Australian suppliers where possible or imported from reputable international suppliers. To ensure all our products are of the highest quality and meet safety standards, our suppliers must show product compliance testing to Australian standards.

To view our product range please visit <http://www.edex.com.au>.

Educational Experience initiated our generous Toys and More fundraiser to help Australian children's education. Early childhood centres and schools who participate in this fundraiser, are rewarded with a credit voucher valued at 20% of the total value ordered by parents and friends and may qualify for additional resources.

For more information please visit <http://www.toysandmore.com.au>

Educational Experience remains committed to the educational needs of all Australian children.

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

World No Tobacco Day 2008

31 May

"Tobacco-free Youth: Break the Tobacco Marketing Net"

Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the world.

It is the only consumer product that kills when used as intended by its manufacturers.

Tobacco kills up to 50% of its regular users.

Approximately one billion young people live in the world today with 85% living in developing countries. Having survived the vulnerable childhood period, they are generally healthy. Nevertheless, tobacco use is contributing to the deadly mix that is changing the classic picture of healthy youth in the world.

Adolescent experimentation with this highly addictive product, aggressively pushed by the tobacco industry, can easily lead to a lifetime of tobacco dependence.

One of the most effective ways to protect young people from the harms of tobacco use is to ban advertising or promotion of tobacco products, and the sponsorship by the tobacco industry of any events or activities.

Read more at <http://www.who.int/tobacco/resources/publications/wntd/2008/en/index.html>

English Australia Conference

18-20 September

Hotel Realm, Canberra, ACT

After 20 extremely successful years as a conference concentrating on the professional development needs of teachers of English to international students, the English Australia Conference will undergo a major transformation in 2008 to reflect the sector's growth and increasingly important role in international education exports.

The Conference Program will maintain its longstanding TESOL focus for teachers of English to international students, but will now also offer a program for the business and administrative staff of ELICOS providers, targeting broader areas of management, marketing, student support and service delivery.

Keynote speakers include Simon Longstaff (Executive Director, St James Ethics Centre), Zhang Lianzhong (Executive Vice President, China Basic Foreign Language Education Research and Training Centre) and Michael McCarthy (Emeritus Professor of Applied Linguistics, University of Nottingham, UK, Adjunct Professor of Applied Linguistics, Pennsylvania State University, USA, and Adjunct Professor of Applied Linguistics, University of Limerick, Ireland).

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

Australian Computers in Education Conference 2008

29 September-2 October 2008

National Convention Centre, Canberra, ACT, Australia

ACEC'08 is the biennial conference of the Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE). The ACEC conference is hosted by the Computer Education Group of a member state or territory after a bidding process. The Computer Education Group of the Australian Capital Territory (CEGACT) in partnership with ACT Catholic and Independent Teacher Librarians Network (CITL) are hosting ACEC'08.

The theme for ACEC'08 is "ACT on ICT", encouraging delegates to come to the National Capital to explore the way ICT is used within both education and the workplace.

This conference will continue the high standard set at ACEC 2006, providing time for reflection, networking and learning for the professional communities of ACCE and partner organisations.

Read more at <http://www.acec2008.info/default2.asp?orgid=1&suborgid=12>

REMINDERS

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

16 May - Marketing Seminar for Schools - Sydney - <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/schoolsseminar>

26 May-1 June - Parents Victoria Online Conference - <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv08.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/AAEE/>

10-12 July - Outdoor Education Association of Queensland State Conference - Rockhampton -
<http://www.oeaq.org.au/events.asp>

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/antssel2008.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-2 October - ACEL International Conference - Melbourne -
<http://www.ancel.org.au/index.php?id=225>

30 September-3 October - National History Teachers' Conference - Brisbane -
<http://www.qhta.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>

22-25 October - Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference - Saratoga Springs, USA -
<http://fie.engrng.pitt.edu/fie2008/>

25-28 October - International Research Conference on Service-learning and Community Engagement -

New Orleans, USA - <http://www.researchslce.org/2008conference.html>

7-11 December - World Indigenous Peoples Conference: Education - Melbourne - <http://www.wipce2008.com/>

4-7 January 2009 - Hawaii International Conference on Education - Honolulu, USA - <http://www.hiceducation.org/>

18-21 January 2009 - Summer School For Australian Teachers - Canberra - <http://www.anu.edu.au/hrc/freilich/>

RESOURCES

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/

Australian Schools Directory - www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au

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