

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

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ACSSO NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2008

Meet the People making the News

Parents and Schools as Partners

20-21 October, Brisbane QLD

The level of public discussion of education issues is very high right now. The Rudd Government's education revolution is picking up momentum. The election commitment to providing personal computer resources to all students officially remains on track, but is running into some practical obstacles. The development of a national curriculum is in progress.

Discussion is widespread and intense about attracting, training and rewarding better teachers, assessing and comparing schools, building school leadership, controlling attendance and truancy, bolstering literacy & numeracy, taking languages education seriously, improving early childhood education and developing the role of parents and family-school partnerships in all of this.

Having already attracted many of the key names getting media attention as speakers at our National Conference in October, ACSSO continues to strengthen the line-up to include more perspectives on the key issues. You will be meeting the people who are making the news and shaping the debate - including:

- Tony Mackay from the National Curriculum Board
- Leonie Trimper from the Australian Primary Principals Association
- Angelo Gavrielatos from the Australian Education Union
- Andrew Blair from the Australian and International Principals Associations

As the debate widens, so will the topics and workshops you can access in Brisbane.

Michael Duffy and others from the Northern Territory explore productive engagement with Indigenous communities. Katherine Danylak unpacks the new community partnership programs in Victoria. The Asia Education Foundation explains new approaches to effective engagement with our Asian neighbours. The Learning Foundation, the Warren Centre, the National Schools Chaplaincy Association, the Family-School and Community Partnership Bureau - we're covering a lot of angles.

Details of these and other additional yet-to-be announced presentations and workshops will shortly be posted on the conference website.

The focus of the ACSSO National Conference is on the big education issues that will shape the future - under the over-arching, all-embracing theme of Parents and Schools as Partners.

Principals, administrators, education researchers, teachers and parents - from all sectors of education, right across the country - this conference is for you! As in previous years, special rates are available for parents representing a school communities.

Read more at <http://www.acsso.org.au/natconf08/>

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HOT TOPIC: THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Mike Carlton and Sandy Aloisi with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Sydney Radio 2UE, 28 August 2008

CARLTON: The teaching unions though have opposed every educational reform since the invention of chalk and blackboards haven't they? They are going to give you a big fight on this one?

PM: Well there maybe a bit of argy bargy on the way through, I think that's fair to say Mike. But I think its time to do this. I notice the Liberals were saying that they had come up with some of these ideas in the past. Well that's terrific, 12 years in Government, 24 reports on boosting quality education in our schools and quality teaching, not much to show for it in terms of real action.

I think its time to get on with this and we are prepared to have an argument if that's necessary because I think tough decisions are necessary for the long term. You can't simply allow our kids to be in schools which are consistently underperforming. We have got to do something about that.

Our teachers are our greatest asset, and what we are trying to do here is how do you provide greater rewards and incentives for our best teachers to stay into the system? How do you provide more incentives and rewards for our best university graduates to go into teaching? And how do we make sure that our schools are properly reporting to parents and to students and to the wider community about how they are going.

ALOISI: John Hatzistergos who is the acting Education Minister in NSW says he doesn't support funding tied to reporting on schools. So, if states continue to say to you we don't like the idea, will you just overrule them?

PM: Well what I said yesterday at the National Press Club when I released this is that we prepared to boost funding, boost funding significantly, but it won't be a blank cheque. And so its a matter for States and Territories whether they want to take the boosted funding or not. That's what is on the line here.

CARLTON: In other words, toe the line or you don't get the money?

PM: That's getting close to it Mike.

CARLTON: I thought it might be.

Read more at http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Interview/2008/interview_0448.cfm

Deputy PM outlines Rudd plan

Lyndal Curtis with the Hon Julia Gillard MP, ABC Radio AM, 28 August 2008

LYNDAL CURTIS: You've threatened to sack principals and teachers if a school is unsalvageable and close the school. Is that smart at a time when there's a shortage of teachers and principals?

JULIA GILLARD: What's not smart is having underperforming schools year after year, decade after decade, not even measuring it, not even recognising it's happening and not doing anything about it because...

LYNDAL CURTIS: But those schools are being measured by states. As one principal said, they're used to benchmarks and guidelines and standards.

JULIA GILLARD: We have nothing happening at the moment that enables national comparison of like schools with like schools. There's no way a parent today can compare like schools with like schools nationally, nor can they do it within their own state or community.

There's nothing available to the national Government today that enables us to see, across the nation, on a comparable system, which schools are falling behind and need extra resources. And we are standing here ready to make extra resources available to the schools that are falling behind, but we want to make sure we understand exactly what's going on.

We think parents have got a right to know exactly what's going on. And that's what the Prime Minister was talking about yesterday.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2008/s2348579.htm>

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Meet the Press, Channel TEN, 1 September 2008

PAUL BONGIORNO: OK. But isn't one of the facts - I guess it's the facts of the Federation - is that only nine per cent of the budgets of State Government schools are provided by the Federal Government?

And the point there is - I think we saw an example of this during the week, with the Liberal leader in Western Australia said that as far as he's concerned, you and the Prime Minister can go jump - you won't be dictating to a Liberal Government in Western Australia about their schools.

JULIA GILLARD: Well, of course we've got the Western Australian election to come, with Alan Carpenter offering a vision for that State and a continuation of good government.

But I'd say to any member of the Liberal Party around the country in relation to our education policies, that if they want to stand up in front of their people and say that they don't want new resources for the children in their schools, then they can do that.

But that would seem to me to be a pretty amazing thing to say to the people of Western Australia or, indeed, any other part of this nation. We are talking about extra resources to make sure that every school is a great school, to make sure every Australian child gets the best possible start in life, and if a Liberal member in Western Australia can't endorse that as a concept, then I would just shake my head in wonderment.

Read more at

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/EducationRevolutionschoolfundingFairfaxABCCWorkChoicesJoelKleinLiberalleadership.htm>

HOT TOPIC: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Truancy penalties a harsh lesson in populist policy

Paul Henman, Canberra Times, 1 September 2008

The Rudd Government's plan to withhold welfare to parents of truanting children is an inequitable stunt that fails to tackle a serious social problem.

Kevin Rudd claims to take education "very seriously" and his election was partly built on investing in our children's education.

Such an investment strategy is crucial to Australia's future success as a skilled nation, is critical for the future of our children's employment and financial prospects, and is essential for building social inclusion. However, the Government's plan to withhold welfare payments to the parents of children who persistently truant from school is a populist response that fails to tackle the root causes of truancy. Every child should be in school. That is not the issue. The issue is instituting a policy that works.

Withholding the welfare payments of apparently "negligent" parents will be popular. A good whacking of moral or social failures is always a political winner. On the surface it seems to address the problem and it concurrently serves as a form of punishment of the poor. And make no mistake, this initiative is directly aimed at the poor, as only those receiving unemployment, disability and parenting payments will be affected. Working families will be exempt.

Unfortunately, the initiative does little to actually address school truancy.

Read more at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/truancy-penalties-a-harsh-lesson-in-populist-policy/1259176.aspx>

Dr Henman is senior lecturer in social policy at the University of Queensland.

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HOT TOPIC: FUNDING

Address to the Independent Schools Council of Australia Parliamentary Forum

Hon Julia Gillard MP, 1 September 2008

It's a great pleasure to be here to meet with representatives of the more than 1,000 schools affiliated with Independent Schools Council of Australia - schools that are working so hard to educate over 450,000 of the nation's students.

Let me say that your timing is impeccable, having chosen National Literacy and Numeracy Week and less than a week after the Prime Minister's landmark statement on school reform, to hold this event. School reform is front and centre of the national debate and the Government intends to strike while the iron is hot and accelerate the reform process. So there's never been a better time to be here in Canberra with your constructive views on how we can lift standards for every Australian school.

Many of Australia's independent schools are achieving excellence and in some cases simply stunning academic results. I want to thank you for your great contribution to the nation's future.

This is a Government committed to learning excellence and there is much to learn from the schools, including so many independent schools, which are examples of high standards, academic rigor, pastoral care and innovative use of information and communications technology.

I want your great work to continue.

And to support you in that work the Government has committed itself to providing your schools with the security and certainty you need as you join us in the task of national school reform. This includes retaining existing Commonwealth funding arrangements, including the SES funding model and current indexation arrangements, for independent schools between 2009 and 2012.

And with regard to the longer term, an open and transparent review of the funding arrangements for non government schools beyond 2012 will be held to establish an approach that is fair for all schools. Consultation will be extensive. And we aim to have that review complete in 2011.

The legislative preparation for the funding of your schools is now in train through the Schools Assistance Bill, which will be introduced into the Parliament in this session and will come into force on January 1 2009.

In addition to confirming the SES funding model, that legislation will contain a new accountability and performance reporting framework for non-government schools and systems, which I will discuss a little later. This framework will be the same as that proposed for government schools under the National Education Agreement which is currently being negotiated through the Council of Australian Governments.

Read more at

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/TheISCAParliamentaryForum.htm>

One system to cover all school funding

Nicola Berkovic The Australian September 02, 2008

THE nation's top education bureaucrat yesterday signalled the end of separate funding agreements for public and private schools.

Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations secretary Lisa Paul told an independent schools forum that the Government's aspiration was to move to a single, needs-based system of funding for government and non-government schools.

"If we can actually achieve that, I think we will have achieved something which is of benefit to all young people in this country," Ms Paul told the Independent Schools Council of Australia parliamentary forum in Canberra.

A comprehensive review of schools funding is to be finalised by 2011. But Ms Paul said while Education Minister Julia Gillard was "enamoured" with the socio-economic status funding system, this would not necessarily form the basis of schools funding following the review.

The SES index -- which is the basis for federal funding of private schools -- links students' residential addresses to census data to obtain a profile of the school community and its ability to financially support the private school. Public schools are funded through state governments on a per-student basis with little reference to levels of socio-economic disadvantage.

Ms Gillard has said an extension of the SES model to public schools would help overcome inequity and disadvantage in Australian schools.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24279371-5013871,00.html>

Private schools wary of cuts

Anna Patty, Sydney Morning Herald, 2 September 2008

Independent schools would oppose any reduction in funding as a result of a new Federal Government directive for all schools to publish their income from student fees, investments and fund-raising from next year.

Geoff Newcombe, the executive director of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, said his organisation had no problem with making their income streams more transparent, but it would oppose receiving less government money as a result.

"We would expect the issue of penalising parents for contributing their after-tax dollars to the education of their child to be also well behind us and to be a dead issue," Dr Newcombe said. "That penalty would be reduced government funding."

The federal Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, yesterday told representatives from more than 1000 schools affiliated with the Independent Schools Council of Australia that transparent reporting would include information about school income from all sources.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/09/01/1220121136755>

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HOT TOPIC: LITERACY & NUMERACY

Nation heads for maths hurdle as students fail the numeracy test

Farrah Tomazin and Bridie Smith, The Age, 2 September 2008

AUSTRALIA is facing a crisis in maths, with new figures showing thousands of primary school students fail to reach basic numeracy benchmarks and get worse by the time they reach high school.

But Victorian students have done relatively well, performing above the national average in all year levels of literacy and numeracy last year.

Days after vowing to lift classroom standards and make schools more accountable for their results, federal Education Minister Julia Gillard yesterday described the figures as "disturbing".

The latest National Report on Schooling in Australia says just over 93% of year 3 students achieved national numeracy benchmarks during testing last year. By year 5, the number of students achieving the benchmark fell to 89% and by year 7, it dropped to 80.2%.

The figures present the Government with a challenge as it seeks to get tough on schools in a bid to tackle underperformance. Last week, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd demanded the states take tough action against failing schools, merge substandard schools and sack principals or teachers when necessary as a condition of federal education funding over the next four years.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/national/nation-heads-for-maths-hurdle-as-students-fail-the-numeracy-test-20080901-4779.html>

The National Report on Schooling in Australia is at <http://www.mceetya.edu.au/mceetya/anr/>

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SCIENCE EDUCATION

Eureka Prize 2008 People's Choice: Solar Princess Receives Double Crown

Nicole Kuepper, a 23 year old solar cell scientist, has been voted Australia's favourite scientist in the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes People's Choice Award.

Often likened to the "Oscars of Australian Science", the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward outstanding achievements in Australian scientific research, leadership and innovation, communication and journalism and school science.

While all other Australian Museum Eureka Prize winners are chosen by specially selected judging panels, the Eureka Prizes People's Choice Award lets the Australian people choose who should win a "science Oscar". Almost 16,000 people from across Australia cast their vote and chose Nicole as the winner.

For Kuepper, a PhD student and lecturer at the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering at the University of New South Wales, the Eureka Prizes People's Choice Award was her second Eureka prize. She also won the British Council Eureka Prize for Young Leaders in Environmental Issues and Climate Change.

Nicole was awarded both Prizes for her work in developing and patenting a revolutionary solar cell that can be manufactured at low temperatures using everyday items like a pizza oven, nail polish and an inkjet printer. Nicole hopes that her technology will mean cheap, clean and green energy for developing countries, providing electricity to 2 billion of the world's poorest people.

Read more at <http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka/go/vote>

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HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Funding productive gardens for government schools

Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health, 21st August 2008

Minister for Health Nicola Roxon launched the national Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. From 21 August 2008, interested schools can apply to take part in the initiative.

The \$12.8 million Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program will teach kids in Government primary schools, in years 3-6, to grow, harvest, cook and share fresh food.

The Minister was joined by culinary legend and founder of the program, Stephanie Alexander, and well known ABC chef and Western Australian project Ambassador Ian Parmenter.

Children will work in a productive garden within their school where they will harvest the food and cook it in a purpose-built teaching kitchen, before sitting down together to taste and enjoy what they have made.

Children learn best by getting involved and through positive examples. By teaching our kids about growing, preparing and sharing healthy food, this program aims to develop life-long healthy eating habits.

The Government is inviting schools around Australia to submit expressions of interest to participate in the program.

Each state and territory (except Victoria which already has a demonstration school) will have one demonstration school which will initially put the program in place and be a model for other participating schools.

The program will be rolled out over four years in up to 190 Government primary schools nationally. Each participating school will receive one-off funding of up to \$60,000 to cover infrastructure costs associated with building kitchens and gardens.

The Government will provide \$560,000 to cover specialist kitchen and garden staff in the demonstration schools for the first two years to help get them established. The school that becomes the demonstration school for its state will receive additional funding of \$40,000 each year for the first two years for two staff - a garden and a kitchen specialist.

Read more at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0808/msheag210.php>

New Children's Television Standards Miss the Mark for Australian Parents

Parents Jury 28 August 2008

Australian parents are angry that a draft of the revised Children's Television Standards released today by the Australian Media and Communications Authority doesn't go far enough to protect their children from junk food advertising.

The Parents Jury's submission to the CTS Review issues paper stated that 97 per cent of their members supported a ban on unhealthy food advertising on television during times when children make up large proportion of the audience.

The Parents Jury is calling for a complete ban on junk food advertising on television from 6am to 9pm, when children could still be watching. ACMA have not committed to such a ban, claiming that broadcasters may lose significant revenue.

Read more at http://www.parentsjury.org.au/tpj_news.asp?ContainerID=news20080828

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

P-plates for new childcare centres under federal government plan

West Australian, 2 September 2008 (AAP)

Baby carer ratios could be reduced from five infants to three and new childcare centres put on P-plates, under an overhaul of early childhood education being considered by the federal government.

The parliamentary secretary for child care, Maxine McKew, has said the government is considering changing its election promise to rank all childcare centres from A to E.

Parents and the industry have expressed opposition to the reform.

Taxpayers and parents were "not getting enough" for the billions of dollars poured into the industry, Ms McKew said.

But she told Fairfax the federal government would demand more from child care operators and expect standards to rise without fee increases.

"Parents are paying like they have never paid before and we are paying massive subsidies and we're not getting enough for our money," she said.

Read more at <http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=28&ContentID=95510>

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AROUND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES

ACT: School sites to stay with the people

Megan Doherty, Canberra Times, 2/09/2008

The ACT Government says it has listened to the public and will ensure the "vast majority" of eight former school sites are devoted to community facilities and green open space.

But at least three and possibly up to five of the eight sites will be developed for aged-care housing and other "supported accommodation" for old, disabled or homeless people.

Community Services Minister Katy Gallagher announced the plans for the sites yesterday, saying the Government had been influenced by public feedback rather than the looming election.

It follows two rounds of community consultation on what to do with the school sites that cost the Government more than \$1million.

Read more at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/school-sites-stay-with-the-people/1259930.aspx>

NSW: Pay rise dispute: teachers promise more action

Sydney Morning Herald, 2 September 2008

NSW public school teachers have promised more industrial action if the state government does not meet their pay demands.

Nearly 90 per cent of NSW public schools were operating with at least minimal supervision after thousands of teachers walked off the job for a two-hour stop work meeting today.

The teachers stopped work between 9am and 11am as part of their dispute over staff transfers and the government's 2.5 per cent payrise ceiling.

The NSW Teachers' Federation had urged 2240 principals to close their schools and refuse to authorise minimal supervision for 750,000 students.

The federation is seeking a five per cent per annum increase in wages - which is above the current inflation rate of 4.5 per cent.

At a meeting of delegates in Sydney today, federation president Maree O'Halloran said if the claims were ignored more strike action would follow.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/pay-rise-dispute-teachers-promise-more-action/2008/09/02/1220121197318.html>

NT: Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme

NT Department of Education and Training

The aim of the Quality Teacher Forum 2008 is to:

- Reflect on teaching practices through collegial networks
- Celebrate teaching and learning research / initiatives in Territory schools
- Extend teachers' understanding, knowledge, practice and implementation of professional learning for improved student outcomes

Who should attend?

- NTAGQTP teachers
- Any teachers across the Territory who are involved in professional learning development

Date: 29-30 September 2008
Time: 8am-5pm
Venue: Charles Darwin University

Read more at

http://www.det.nt.gov.au/education/programs_initiatives/agqtp/QualityTeacherForum.shtml

QLD: Minister blames parent threats for school cartwheels ban

ABC News, 27 August 2008

Queensland Education Minister Rod Welford has linked parental threats of legal action to a school's decision to ban cartwheels in the playground.

Earlier this year, Mr Welford's Department suggested all schools advise parents that students are not insured for accident or injury on school grounds.

Education Queensland has since defended the Townsville school for its ban on school yard acrobatics, insisting it was to ensure student safety.

But Mr Welford says parents are suing schools even if their children are not seriously injured.

"We as a community are increasingly wrapping our children in cotton wool because more and more parents are complaining when their children suffer even minor injuries," he said.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/27/2347945.htm>

SA: Gavin goes to school

Mike Rann, Premier of South Australia, 25 August 2008

Students across the State will learn about the precious marine environment with the help of a special sea-dwelling friend - Gavin the Leafy Seadragon.

Every primary school in South Australia will receive a new education pack to teach students about marine life.

Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill today launched The Amazing Adventures of Gavin, a Leafy Seadragon Educator's Resource, which accompanies the animated film about Gavin.

"Gavin is a fun way of teaching South Australian kids about the importance of protecting our marine environment," Mr Weatherill said.

"The film focuses on Gavin exploring the amazing diversity of life in the state's eight marine bioregions.

"The aim of the new education pack, which is packaged as a CD, is to provide teachers with the tools to expand their students' knowledge about the different habitats and ecosystems mentioned in the film."

Read more at <http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=3603>

TAS: Board members appointed to lead changes to education and training

David Bartlett MP, Tas Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, 28 August 2008

Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, David Bartlett, today announced the board members for the Tasmanian Polytechnic, Tasmanian Academy and Training Tasmania.

Mr Bartlett said board members had been drawn from the school and university sector, industry and community groups, with a broad range of expertise.

"They will join the Chairs of the three organisations, Dr Mike Vertigan, Ms Kim Boyer and Dr James Cretan, who were appointed earlier this year," he said.

"The boards of each of these organisations will provide leadership and advice which reflects the needs of industry and the broader community.

"I'm confident that these people have the talent and expertise to guide the organisations."

Mr Bartlett said that, Tasmania Tomorrow aims to revitalise and re-invest in education post-year 10.

Read more at <http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=24623>

VIC: Big business to get new role in schools

Farrah Tomazin, The Age, 2 September 2008

PRIVATE companies will get a greater stake in Victoria's public education system, under a radical State Government shake-up.

Premier John Brumby is expected to announce today a five-year overhaul of schools and early childhood learning, designed to tackle underperformance, lift teaching quality and bridge the gap between schools and the community.

Under the changes, big companies will be asked to play a greater role in public education, "partnering" schools in disadvantaged suburbs and areas with skills shortages.

They will also be asked to assist with financial contributions, student mentoring programs or "in kind" donations such as computers and equipment.

Several major companies and philanthropic groups, including National Australia Bank, Goldman Sachs JBWere and the Ross Trust, are believed to have individually approached the Education Department in the past 18 months about getting involved in the school system.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/national/big-business-to-get-new-role-in-schools-20080901-4778.html>

VIC: Broader Powers Strengthen State Teaching Regulator

Bronwyn Pike MP, Vic Minister for Education, 22 August 2008

The Victorian Institute of Teaching's role in regulating the teaching profession will be strengthened under a series of reforms being introduced by the Brumby Government.

Responding to recommendations made following a review of the structure and operation of the VIT, Education Minister Bronwyn Pike will give the institute the power to investigate allegations below the level of serious misconduct and to impose a new range of sanctions.

"It is vital that the Victorian Institute of Teaching continues to meet community expectations and we maintain high standards of professional conduct and expertise across the teaching profession," Ms Pike said.

"The Government's response to this report will play a key role in shaping the future regulation of the teaching profession so parents and the broader community can continue to have every confidence in the Victorian school system.

"This review clearly indicated that the VIT has a vital and ongoing role to play in regulating the teaching profession and ensuring a high calibre workforce."

The VIT is responsible for the registration of all teachers working in Victorian government, Catholic and independent schools and accrediting teacher training courses in Victoria.

Read more at <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/minister-for-education/broader-powers-strengthen-state-teaching-regulator.html>

WA: HP bags \$1m WA education contract

Mahesh Sharma, The Australian, August 21, 2008

Struggling to keep track of the digital information generated by its 40,000 employees, Western Australia's Department of Education and Training (DET) will spend over \$1 million to expand its use of knowledge management software.

With corporate information scattered across non-compliant network drives, local drives, email inboxes and lever arch files, DET wasn't able to properly comply with Western Australia's State Records Act 2000.

The department has purchased 7000 licences as part of the deal with Tower Software, recently acquired by Hewlett-Packard.

Tower's Trim Context software will be deployed to 2000 corporate staff and 5000 TAFE WA users from 10 TAFE colleges with 50 campuses across the state.

Read more at <http://www.australianit.news.com.au/story/0,24897,24218399-15319,00.html>

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REMI NDERS

1-7 September - National Literacy & Numeracy Week - <http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/>

5 September - Partnerships in Learning Conference - Brisbane - <http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/nlnw/initiatives.html>

5-6 September - The Education Show - Brisbane - <http://www.educationshow.net.au>

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

18-20 September - English Australia Conference - Canberra - <http://www.eaconference.com.au/>

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

24-25 September - Scottish Learning Festival - Glasgow, Scotland - <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/slf/index.asp>

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

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

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

1-3 October - Biennial National Conference, Association of Women Educators - Cairns - <http://www.awe.asn.au/conferences/cairns08/index.php>

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

8-9 October - School Marketing Conference - Perth - <http://www.marketingschools.net/>

12-18 October - Anti-Poverty Week - <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/>

16-18 October - Learning Democracy by Doing - Toronto, Canada - <http://tlc.oise.utoronto.ca/wordpress/conferences/october2008>

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>

10-11 November - Curriculum Corporation Conference 2008 - Melbourne - <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/conference/2008/>

17-19 November - International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation - Madrid, Spain - <http://www.iated.org/iceri2008/>

24-26 November - International Conference on Distance Education - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic - <http://www.icde.org/oslo/icde.nsf/id/05C3211E27B0737DC12573E100405E7F?OpenDocument>

25-28 November - Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future - Geneva, Switzerland - <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/ice.html>

30 November-4 December - Australian Association for Research in Education International Education Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.aare.edu.au/conf2008/index.htm>

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

8-12 December - International Consortium for Experiential Learning - Sydney - <http://www.education.uts.edu.au/icel/index.html>

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

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

15-18 April - International Outdoor Education Research Conference - Beechworth, Vic - http://www.latrobe.edu.au/oent/research_conf_2009.htm

RESOURCES

The Asia Scope and Sequence for The Arts

Professional Learning Workshop and units of work

The **Asia Scope and Sequence for The Arts** highlights key studies of Asia concepts and content that can be incorporated into the P-10 curriculum.

A professional Learning program focusing on how to make the most of this rich resource is now available free of charge for download on the AEF website.

http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/public_html/downloadable_materials.htm

Ten units of work have been written to support the use of the Asia Scope and Sequence for The Arts.

They provide teachers with a range of practical and exemplary activity types which teachers can use as is or build on. There are 5 Primary English units and 5 Secondary English units.

Find these at: http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/public_html/scope_sequence.htm

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.

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

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

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

ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

- **Australian Education Digest** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/aed.htm> (weekly)
- **International News Roundup** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/roundup.htm> (monthly)

- **Values Education** : <http://www.valuesineducation.org.au/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Languages Education** : <http://www.languageseducation.com/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Ensemble - Music Education** : <http://www.ensemble.org.au/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Public Education Voice** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/pev.htm> (quarterly)

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