

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 2 Number 45, 9 December 2008

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- [Hot Topic: Funding](#) (9 items)
- [Hot Topic: Digital Education Revolution](#) (3 items)
- [Opinion: The best of both worlds - Shaun Carney](#)
- [Arts Education: An Education Revolution? The Arts are central to it!](#)
- [Awards & Prizes: Australian Museum Eureka Science Prizes 2009](#)
- [Resources: Mathematics DVD released to improve children's numeracy](#)
- [Health & Well-being: MunchMonitor](#)
- [Around the States & Territories:](#) (7 items)
- [Conferences & Events:](#) (2 items)
- [Reminders](#)
- [Resource Listings](#)
- [ACSSO Email Newsletters](#)

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HOT TOPIC: FUNDING

Additional \$635 Million for Government Primary Schools

Hon Julia Gillard MP, 1 December 2008

Government primary schools will receive an additional \$635 million over the next four years as part of the new National Education Agreement agreed at COAG yesterday.

Primary schools are a vital part of the nation's education system and play a crucial role in preparing young Australians for the future.

The Rudd Government's new investment will see the end of an unfair funding practice where government primary schools received a smaller proportion of funding per student than government secondary schools.

Under the previous schools funding agreement between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories, government primary schools were awarded only 8.9 per cent of the Average Government School Recurrent Cost (AGSRC) index, while government secondary schools received 10 per cent of the AGSRC.

From 1 January 2009, this inequity will be abolished and funding for government primary schools will be increased to 10 per cent of the primary school AGSRC. This change will see an increase of around \$100 per primary school student each year for the four years of the new National Education Agreement.

Read more at

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/Additional635MillionforGovernmentPrimarySchools.htm>

PM targets education inequality with \$1bn handout

Matthew Franklin, The Australian, December 01, 2008

KEVIN Rudd will identify the nation's 1500 poorest-performing schools and flood them with \$1.1 billion over the next five years in a front-on attack on inequality of access to education.

The Prime Minister has also won agreement from the states to deliver the improvements by giving school principals greater power to hire and fire and to lift pay for their best teachers - smashing years of entrenched opposition from state governments and education unions.

The changes sit at the centre of \$140 billion worth of new commonwealth-state funding deals clinched between Mr. Rudd and premiers at the Council of Australian Governments meeting on the weekend.

COAG struck new agreements on health, education, housing, disability, productivity and indigenous services, most requiring states to publish data about their relative performance so voters would be able to assess whether the money was being used properly.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24731285-601,00.html>

[< top >](#)

Transcript: Christopher Pyne, Shadow Education Minister, 1 December 2008

Christopher Pyne MP: The simple fact of the matter is that Julia Gillard is linking funding to non-government schools with the mandated national curriculum and the hidden agenda of destroying the SES funding model. The Opposition doesn't have to pass those aspects of the Bill. We've said we're more than happy to pass the funding parts of the Bill but we will baulk at a mandated national curriculum which has no flexibility for IB schools, Steiner schools, Montessori schools, unique other schools; and we also don't believe that non-government schools should have to have their private sources of funding published for all to see

David Bevan: What is wrong with asking every school in this country to just simply comply with some basic things - that's what the national curriculum is about, isn't it?

Pyne: ... the national curriculum, which was the Howard Government's idea, is a good idea and we support it. We always said it should be the national curriculum or its equivalent, so for International Baccalaureate schools, programs for children with disabilities, Steiner and Montessori schools, and there are other unique kinds of schools - Jewish or Muslim or Christian schools - they should be able to maintain their diversity to give parents choice about what's good for their children's education, but the national curriculum as embodied by the Labor Party in this Bill doesn't do that, it crushes diversity and says one size fits all

Read more at <http://www.pyneonline.com.au/news/article/transcript-for-abc-891-schools-assistance-bill>

[< top >](#)

Interview, Julia Gillard MP 1 December 2008

DAVID BEVAN: The second issue, the second sticking point, is the requirement that private schools make public all of the sources of funding. Christopher Pyne says that's unfair.

JULIA GILLARD: Well, I believe in transparency, and what amazes me is the Liberal Party in government used to talk a lot about transparency. It never got anything effective done. We are entering a new era of transparency where every school, government and non-government, will be subject to the same transparency criteria.

We want people to know the needs of school populations. We want people to know how schools are going on objective measures, like the national testing results and Year 12 retention. We want people to know the resources that are being brought to bear. We want people to be able to compare similar schools.

And the reason for that is if you compared schools that are similar in terms of the student populations and you saw one school going streaks ahead compared with the other, then you'd be able to say, 'Well, what's the difference? Is it the quality of the teacher? Is it the quality of the leadership? Is it the amount of resources that are being brought to bear?'

And then if we had that information, we, the adults, should do what is our responsibility and fix the thing that is holding the kids in the underperforming school back.

I believe in this passionately. This nation has failed kids from poorer families by leaving them in underperforming schools for too long.

Read more at <http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/ABCAdelaideInterview.htm>

[< top >](#)

Interview: Christopher Pyne with Barry Cassidy 1 December 2008

Pyne: We have two major considerations with this Bill. The first is that we don't believe that the private funding sources of non-government schools should be published. We have no problem with that information being collected. Indeed it was collected in the previous government, but Labor wants to publish it, and that's part of their hidden agenda to destroy the SES Funding model for non-government schools, which we think is the most objective system of funding non-government schools.

And secondly, we do support the National Curriculum but we believe that the inflexible mandated national curriculum required by this legislation would destroy Steiner schools, Montessori Schools, International Baccalaureate, unique schools that might teach methods like Emilio Reggio, Jewish schools, Muslim schools, some Christian schools. We think we should have a national curriculum "or its equivalent", and Labor simply has a mandated inflexible national curriculum required by this Bill.

Cassidy: What do the private schools have to hide, why are they worried about their funding being disclosed?

Pyne: Well they've got nothing to hide, but in the same way that every taxpayer doesn't have their tax return published on the front page of the Australian every day there is no reason that non-government schools should have their private sources of funding published on the internet to be used by the education union or the people who oppose the SES funding model, to destroy that model. So it's not that they've got anything to hide, just as no individual taxpayer has anything to hide. There's a big difference between providing information to government and then having it published for everyone to see. That's the difference.

Read more at <http://www.pyneonline.com.au/news/article/abc2-breakfast-with-barrie-cassidy>

[< top >](#)

Julie Gillard MP interview –2 December 2008

FRAN KELLY: Julia Gillard, the Opposition wants changes to this funding bill for private schools, which guarantees \$28 billion for that sector. It wants the bill split off so that you can get the money passed, but there can be more debate for issues like national curriculum and private schools being forced to reveal all their funding sources. That's not unreasonable, is it?

JULIA GILLARD: It's completely unreasonable, Fran. We've been having these debates all year, and all year I've been saying we will deliver a new era of transparency for both government schools and non-government schools—and I want to stress that. There's not one thing that we are asking of non-government schools that we're not also asking of government schools. Premiers and Chief Ministers signed up to a new era of transparency for government schools on Saturday, including being transparent about resources going into schools. We want the same requirements on non-government schools.

And the reason we want that is we want to be in the situation to compare schools with similar student populations, and if we saw one going streets ahead getting really great results and one falling behind, we would be able to say, "What's the difference? Is it teacher quality? Is it principal quality? Or is it the amount of resources?" That's why we want the resources out there in the public domain—not to punish anybody but to enable us to have good information about lifting up those schools that are getting left behind.

FRAN KELLY: What about the whole notion of the national curriculum? Generally, there's a lot of support for that notion. But is it true that it will work against schools like Montessori schools? Schools that have a very different kind of curriculum?

JULIA GILLARD: Once again, completely untrue and I've been making this clear in my speeches.

Read more at

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

[< top >](#)

World Class National Curriculum Essential Element of Bill

Hon Julia Gillard MP, 3 December 2008

At the last election, the Rudd Government promised the Australian people that we would deliver a world class national curriculum to every school and every student in this nation. The task of developing a National Curriculum is one that the Rudd Government believes should be undertaken by experts and educators, not by politicians.

That is why the Government appointed a National Curriculum Board in April, which includes representatives from the Independent and Catholic school sectors.

The work of the National Curriculum Board is ongoing and includes many opportunities for participation, consultation and feedback by teachers, schools, subject experts and others with an interest in the development of the curriculum.

The new National Curriculum will draw together the best programs to ensure every Australian child has access to a world class curriculum, to lift achievement and drive up school retention rates. It will also reduce disruption for the 80,000 students who commence school each year in a new State or Territory.

Beyond the requirements of the content and achievement standards, there will continue to be flexibility for innovation and creativity for the development and delivery of curriculum methods, at the local level in

schools. The National Curriculum Board will also advise on the best way to acknowledge internationally recognised curricula like Steiner, Montessori and the International Baccalaureate.

Read more at

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

[< top >](#)

Coalition in back-flip on private schools funding

Samantha Maiden and Justine Ferrari, The Australian, December 04, 2008

PRIVATE school funding has been guaranteed for next year after a last-minute Coalition back-flip on threats to block laws that tied government taxpayer funding to the adoption of a new national curriculum.

The decision is a win for Education Minister Julia Gillard, who had warned of "chaos" for smaller independent schools. The Senate stand-off erupted after the Liberals, Nationals and Family First Senator Steve Fielding threatened to scuttle the \$28 billion funding package over four years unless the right of schools using unique learning methods was protected.

The opponents initially removed the national curriculum provision from the legislation, on the grounds that it threatened the courses offered by Steiner and Montessori schools and other programs such as the International Baccalaureate.

Family First senator Steve Fielding sought to persist with the amendment, but was defeated. But the Coalition failed to press its own amendments, prompting speculation that Liberal leader Malcolm Turnbull ordered Opposition education spokesman Chris Pyne to resolve the impasse.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,24750073-13881,00.html>

[< top >](#)

Humiliating back-down by Libs delivers \$28 billion to non-govt schools

Hon Julia Gillard MP, 4 December 2008

Funding for more than 1 million Australian students in non-government schools is now safe following a humiliating back-down by the Shadow Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne and the Liberal Party. The Rudd Government can now deliver \$28 billion to Independent and Catholic schools around the country from 1 January 2008.

The Schools Assistance Bill, passed by the Senate today includes the transparency and National Curriculum requirements that the Government put forward and insisted on, because they are essential to achieving the high educational standards Australia needs in the 21st century.

For two months, the Shadow Minister has played politics and stood in the way of legislation to deliver \$28 billion of funding to non-government schools for the next four years. After previously insisting on an amendment to completely remove the National Curriculum requirement from the Bill, the Liberal Party has completely back-flipped. To avoid embarrassment, the Opposition spokesperson, Christopher Pyne is now desperately scrabbling for excuses.

Read more at <http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/>

[< top >](#)

HOT TOPIC: DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Additional \$807 million for Computers in Schools

Hon Julia Gillard MP, 30 November 2008

The Rudd Government will invest more than \$2 billion in the Digital Education Revolution after agreeing to provide a further \$807 million to States and Territories for legitimate on-costs.

In March, the Council of Australian Governments commissioned a review of legitimate and additional financial implications for the States and Territories arising from the implementation of the \$1.2 billion National Secondary School Computer Fund.

The Grimes Review was informed by submissions from State and Territory, Independent and Catholic school authorities and found that a reasonable overall estimate of the cost of deploying each additional computer stands at \$2500.

The additional funding of \$807 million will be paid before the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

Read more at

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/Additional807millionforComputersinSchools.htm>

[< top >](#)

Gillard denies school computers cost blow-out

ABC News, Sun Nov 30 2008

The Federal Government has denied it has mismanaged its computers in schools program. The Opposition has accused the Federal Government of a major cost blow-out.

The Commonwealth has boosted the funding pool for the scheme by \$800 million after some states complained they did not have enough money to cover running costs.

But Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard told Channel Ten it was always obvious the Government would need to thrash-out the operating costs with the states.

"When we came into Government we said to the states we were happy to talk to them about costs," she said. "We also discovered in the first round of our computers in schools just how bad the situation was in schools.

"The new money made available to states means we're delivering on making sure costs are met."

Ms Gillard said the Government is committed to the program. "From the first days of the Government, in the first 100 days, the applications went out for round one of computers in schools. We were working cooperatively," she said. "We were working with them to crystallise the on-costs and now we've dealt with the question of on-costs."

More blow-outs in Computers in Schools program to come

Christopher Pyne MP, Shadow Minister for Education, 1 December 2008

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education refused to rule out any further cost blow-outs in the Computers in Schools program, Christopher Pyne, Shadow Minister for Education said today.

"I asked Ms Gillard pointedly in the Federal Parliament whether she could confirm that there would be no further federal government monies required to prop up this bungled program which has already required an \$807 million bail-out," Mr. Pyne said.

"States and territories were in revolt after being lumbered with the staggering on-going costs of Kevin Rudd's promise of a computer for every student from year 9-12," he said.

"Even with last week's funding blow-out, this program fails to deliver on this promise. The Government is now paying \$2500 per computer to deliver on their election promise, even though their own report admits that the average cost to states is \$4668 per computer.

"Today she had the opportunity to draw a line in the sand and say that this election promise will not drive the Budget any further into deficit. Instead she avoided the questions.

Read entire release at: <http://www.pyneonline.com.au/news/article/more-blow-outs-in-computers-in-schools-program>

OPINION

The best of both worlds

Shaun Carney, The Age, 26 November 2008

It's a unity ticket you couldn't dream up: Australia's greatest living capitalist and a flame-haired Melbourne left-winger.

This week, Rupert Murdoch and Julia Gillard did more to redirect and re-energise education policy in this country than any two leading public figures for a very long time. Murdoch's critical diagnosis of the public education system, in the latest of his Boyer lectures, was spot on. His proposal for greater corporate involvement in schooling has merit, but it was his assessment of the costs of underperforming schools that carried the real weight.

Thousands upon thousands of young Australians were being let down and eventually leading miserable lives because of failures in the education system, he said. Murdoch's appraisal went beyond the social costs and considered the economic implications. Unless Australia extends quality schooling opportunities across the society, the nation's capacity to generate income and re-equip itself industrially will be lost. Each day, our comparative advantage over developing countries, especially China, is being frittered away.

Meanwhile, on Monday morning at the Docklands, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Julia Gillard gave the most important speech so far in the life of the Rudd Government. Most governments are lucky if they leave behind three or four enduring policy initiatives. What Gillard outlined in her speech was a set of educational goals that, if Labor manages to implement them, will outstrip most of the Government's other work. Why? Because they will leave primary and secondary education restructured in ways that will affect the lives of several generations.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/the-best-of-both-worlds-20081125-6hdw.html?page=-1>

Shaun Carney is associate editor of The Age.

[< top >](#)

ARTS EDUCATION

An Education Revolution? The Arts are central to it!

National Advocates for Arts Education, 3 December 2008

Unless the arts are included as a key learning area in the development of a national curriculum for schools, children coming through the system will be illiterate in the new skill areas essential for the 21st Century.

So says a new lobby coalition, the National Advocates for Arts Education (NAAE) which has just spent two days meeting with politicians and arts advisers in Canberra. Comprehensively representing dance, drama, music and visual arts education, the NAAE is urgently calling for the immediate inclusion of the arts in the work of the National Curriculum Board and the Early Years Learning Framework.

NAAE believes that a culturally rich education is central to realising the Government's priorities for a genuine education revolution and fostering creativity, innovation, cultural understanding and social inclusion in the Australian workforce.

Recent Australian research evidence backs international findings that arts education develops these skills as no other subject area can. It demonstrates that visual, aural and kinesthetic abilities are essential for Australians to compete in the global marketplace where the economy of the cultural industries is growing in importance.

The NAAE is planning a campaign for 2009 involving teachers, school principals, parents, university teacher education bodies, industry and a range of other sectors with an interest in the future of the education system.

Read more at <http://www.visualarts.net.au/newsdesk/2008/12/educationrevolutiontheartshaveit>

[< top >](#)

AWARDS & PRIZES

Eureka Science Prizes 2009

Australian Museum

2009 is the 20th year of the Australian Museum Eureka Science Prizes - and we would like you to help us celebrate. We are inviting primary, secondary school students and their teachers from across Australia to enter to win a share of \$30,000 worth of cash and prizes, and to make this coming year's entries the best ever!

The 2009 Eureka school prizes include:

- Macquarie University Eureka Schools Science Prize for Action Against Climate Change (secondary students years 7 – 10)
- University of Sydney Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize (primary and secondary students)
- University of Technology, Sydney Eureka Prize for Science Teaching (secondary teachers)
- Australian Museum Eureka Prizes People's Choice Award

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

[< top >](#)

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RESOURCES

Mathematics DVD released to improve children's numeracy

Independent Schools Queensland, 24 November 2008

An Australian-first DVD to help teachers and parents improve numeracy levels among Indigenous pre Prep to Year 3 students was launched in Cairns.

The DVD, Jump into Number, was a joint project between Independent Schools Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Catholic Education (Diocese of Cairns) aimed at improving mathematical practice in the early years.

Independent Schools Queensland Executive Director Dr John Roulston said the invaluable teaching resource features a series of unscripted lessons which demonstrate the possibilities of learning among young Indigenous students.

"Currently there is a lack of teaching resources for numeracy in younger students, especially from pre Prep to Year 3 which is such an important stage of a child's early education. Jump into Number is a benchmark for all teachers to learn more about the mathematical development of younger students," Dr Roulston said.

Read more at <http://www.aisq.qld.edu.au/Home.aspx?element=1&category=1>

[< top >](#)

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HEALTH & WELL-BEING

MunchMonitor

...the 21st century school canteen management system that saves you time and makes you money – with a focus on student health & well-being.

Would your school canteen like to:

- increase sales
- reduce or eliminate cash transactions
- save 30 minutes of work each day
- encourage healthily balanced meals that aid student performance

MunchMonitor provides an online canteen management system which benefits schools by:

- increasing canteen efficiency & profitability
- eliminating cash from the canteen
- providing an effective online ordering facility

School communities adopting our system have had great success, increasing canteen sales by more than 25% - with cashless sales accounting for more than 55% of total sales.

Read more at <http://www.munchmonitor.com>

[< top >](#)

AROUND THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ACT: Early morning school starters abandoned

Emily Sherlock, Canberra Times, 30/11/2008

PUPILS are being dropped at school gates up to an hour before school starts, prompting concerns about safety. Some pupils are reportedly arriving as early as 7.55am as parents start work at 8am. Most primary schools begin classes at 8.55am.

While some schools offer before school care, those children not using the service mill in the school yard or outside the gate until official playground supervision begins around 8.30am.

Australian Education Union ACT Secretary Penny Gilmour said she was unaware of how widespread it was but it could occur in pockets across the territory and was a concern. "There are safety issues around traffic, potential for stranger danger and other things," she said.

She understood pressures on parents to get to work on time, but "teachers don't actually stay at school 24/7" to look after children.

"Teachers are parents too and would also be organising their own children to either go to before school care or whatever the other appropriate arrangements are," she said.

The principal of St Jude's Primary School in Holder, Michael Lowe, said pupils getting to school "earlier and earlier" was a troubling issue. Some of the first pupils started arriving between 7.55am and 8.05am a full hour before the school day began.

Read more at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/early-school-starters-abandoned/1373801.aspx>

[< top >](#)

ACT: Student Wins National History Challenge Award

The Asia Education Foundation (AEF) is happy to announce that the winner of the Asia and Australia category is Yun Fei Ou Yang from Canberra High School, ACT.

Yun Fei was a State and Territory Young Historian Prize Winner and received the Australian Capital YOUNG HISTORIAN Award.

For the theme of Australia meets the world, Yun Fei, a Year 7 student, presented an essay on 'Chinese Contributions to Australian Society'.

His award winning article was all the more impressive since he came to Australia when he was only 8 years old.

His well-researched essay celebrates the achievements of citizens who were of Asian descent. He illustrates how deeply entrenched and integral families from Asia are to the Australian society and economy.

The AEF is very pleased to have sponsored this Award.

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

[< top >](#)

QLD: State Government partners with industry to help school-leavers

Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts The Honourable Rod Welford, 08/12/2008

The Bligh Government is working in partnership with Rio Tinto Alcan to help Gladstone school-leavers find their 'dream' jobs.

Minister for Education and Training Rod Welford said Education Queensland would join with Rio Tinto Alcan to undertake a study into school-to-work pathways in the Gladstone region.

"The Clever Recruiting Gladstone Study will document programs currently available to school-aged students and detail recruitment and work-ready proposals," Mr Welford said.

"The study aims to develop a world-class co-operative model involving industry, local businesses and schools that will build on the existing Gladstone Area State Secondary Schools Alliance.

"The study will identify long-term strategies to improve recruitment and training and strengthen the industry-school relationships in the Gladstone area."

Mr Welford said the study would make a valuable contribution towards achieving the Bligh Government's ambitious 2020 target of three out of four Queenslanders having trade, training or technical qualifications.

Read more at <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=61829>

[< top >](#)

QLD: Teacher scholarships aim to boost bush education

ABC News, Dec 1, 2008

The Queensland Government has announced scholarships for undergraduate teachers to work in remote locations or at difficult schools, as well as in specialist subject areas.

Remote families have welcomed new initiatives aimed at recruiting and retaining teachers to isolated areas. Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) spokeswoman Lorraine McGinnis says attracting teachers to small schools in the bush is a huge challenge.

"We're delighted to think that this would give the opportunity for young teachers to take up positions in rural and remote areas," she said. "We're thankful that they've realised this is a difficult problem and are taking steps to make some changes that we hope will encourage young teachers, but also it'll be good to see experienced teachers come out into the bush as well."

She says "boomerang transfers" will also be offered to encourage experienced teachers to do short-term placements.

"We're quite interested to see how this could work because this could mean experienced teachers coming into rural and remote locations," she said.

"The idea being they would have two or three years in a remote location and then be able to go back to the previous school they came from.

"We also think this has got the capacity to build links between those schools."

The Queensland Teachers Union (QTU) has also welcomed the plan. QTU spokesman Steve Ryan says industry wages must also be lifted to recruit and retain good teachers.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/01/2433776.htm>

[< top >](#)

SA: 'London calling' for top science students

Hon Jane Lomax-Smith MP, Minister for Education, 5 December 2008

Ten South Australian students have traded petri dishes for plane tickets and are off to the United Kingdom for the science experience of a lifetime. The year 10 and 11 students are the 2008 recipients of the SpiRit of Science Maurice de Rohan Scholarships, which enable talented young people from South Australian public schools to attend the world-famous Christmas lectures at the Royal Institution of Great Britain (RI) in London.

The scholarships were established in 2005 by former Adelaide Thinker in Residence Baroness Susan Greenfield to help students from low socio-economic communities develop their passion for science and inspire them to pursue science-related careers.

The Christmas lectures are a British institution involving leading scientists presenting complex theories to young people in an informative and entertaining way. The lectures are performed live to an audience of 500 people and are also televised nationally.

Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith congratulated the successful students and says she is confident they will be excellent representatives for their families, schools and the State.

Read more at <http://www.ministers.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=4068>

[< top >](#)

VIC: Vietnam Venture to Explore New Education Frontiers

Education Minister Bronwyn Pike, 3 December 2008

The Victorian education system is being recognised as a worldwide leader after the Vietnamese and Brumby Governments signed documents to take the opening of a Victorian-style school in Vietnam a step closer to reality.

Education Minister Bronwyn Pike signed a letter of intent with the Vietnamese Government to conduct a feasibility study on a Vietnamese school offering Victorian curriculum.

Ms Pike said that after successfully establishing the Sharjah Victorian school in the United Arab Emirates, Victorians could reap further benefits from taking the state's world-class education even further on the world stage.

"As the Sharjah project has demonstrated, there are huge benefits on offer to Victorians through exploring these new international frontiers through promoting the education services Victoria offers," Ms Pike said.

Read more at <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/minister-for-education/vietnam-venture-to-explore-new-educational-frontiers.html>

[< top >](#)

WA: Campaign to raise the status of teachers

Education Minister Liz Constable, 8 Dec 2008

A multi-faceted campaign to raise the status of teaching in Western Australian government schools begins today.

Education Minister Liz Constable launched the first stage of the State-wide 'Have you got what it takes' campaign during the WA Education Awards function at the Burswood Complex this morning.

Dr Constable said it was important to reward teachers financially, while highlighting the vital role they played in the lives of students.

"The advertising campaign illustrates the long-lasting influence teachers have on students and how they make a difference in their everyday lives," she said.

The \$350,000 campaign marks the beginning of a comprehensive strategy to raise the status of the teaching profession, recruit new teachers, retain current teachers and promote the diversity of public education.

Read more at <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Lists/Statements/DispForm.aspx?ID=131017>

[< top >](#)

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

WA Childcare and Early Childhood Education Conference

3-5 April 2009, Perth, WA

This is a biennial Conference which aims to provide a forum for collaboration, quality learning and discussion for people working in the areas of Children's Services, Care and Education.

The Conference is supported in achieving its aim through sponsorship from PSCWA, Lotterywest, the Department for Communities and the Department for Child Protection in Western Australia.

Representatives from various child service industries and organisations in WA have formed the planning committee, ensuring that the Conference provides relevant, practical and stimulating learning for all participants.

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

[< top >](#)

Contasta Science Education Conference

4-7 July 2009, Launceston, Tasmania

The annual conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association is being hosted by the Science Teachers Association of Tasmania (STAT) from 4 to 7 July in Launceston, Tasmania, Australia.

The theme of the conference is Science Education – A Bridge to the Future and it will cater to the interests of teachers from all levels of education and include a full program each day for primary (K-6), secondary (7-10), secondary college (11-12) and tertiary.

CONASTA 58 is Australia's most significant professional learning experience for science education.

Read more at <http://www.cdesign.com.au/conasta58>

[< top >](#)

REMINDERS

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

11-16 January - Positive Education Conference - Corio, Victoria - <http://www.ggs.vic.edu.au/index.asp?menuid=200.060>

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

18-23 January - Positive Education Conference - Corio, Victoria - <http://www.ggs.vic.edu.au/index.asp?menuid=200.060>

20-23 January - Australasian Computing Education Conference - Wellington, New Zealand - http://www.cs.rmit.edu.au/conf/ace_2009/

2-5 March - BIG Skills Conference - Sydney Australia -

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/training_skills/programmes_funding/programme_categories/Conferences/

16-18 March - IASTED International Conference on Web-based Education - Phuket, Thailand -
<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/home-644.html>

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

17-21 April - National Art Education Association National Convention - Minneapolis, USA -
<http://www.naea-reston.org/convention.html>

21 May - Education 09 - London, UK - <http://www.govnet.co.uk/education/>

8-10 July - Education in a Digital Present: Enriching Rural Communities - Flinders University, SA -
<http://www.spera.edu.au//conferences/callforpapers.pdf>

[< top >](#)

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RESOURCE LISTINGS

Passport to Australia: The Australian Travel Game

Find out more about our amazing country the fun way: Strap yourself in for a learning adventure like no other with **Passport to Australia**, the new board game from Brisbane based company Barker Boys (Australia) Pty Ltd

This is a fresh and exciting way for players of all ages to learn about Australia – the ultimate board game that takes players on a funtastic journey to every state and territory

The game is a brilliant way to improve your general knowledge on places that are in our own backyard. Though you hardly notice you're learning because it's so easy to get carried away with the thrill of the chase.

Read more at <http://www.passporttoaustralia.com>.

[< top >](#)

Linguascope

The most valuable resource for schools for French, German, Italian, Spanish or ESOL - Year 1 - 12

Registration to **Linguascope** gives teachers access to thousands of resources - and enables every student to access to games and activities at all levels when they login at school - or at home.

When teachers discover Linguascope, they never want to give it up! With a re-subscription rate of 99%, it shows the value to teachers across Australia – and worldwide.

Linguascope's clear instructions and attractive colourful graphics will ensure that the site is a hit with your students. Linguascope encourages them to log on at school and home giving them the opportunity to revise and do extra study at night or during their lunch break. Students using Linguascope are able to work at their own pace, and teachers love it:

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

[< top >](#)

LOTE@HOME

Learning languages at home from the early years

"Children who have grown up learning two or more different languages are better problem solvers"

LOTE@HOME is an innovative way for parents to participate with their kids as they all learn a second language.

LOTE@HOME packs are not intended to replace formal LOTE lessons, however they are intended to build an "in country environment" in the home that will support the formal learning of a second language.

Devised by a parent who was unable to identify an approach to learning a language other than English that focused on a home, family-based setting, these family-friendly kits are now available in ten community languages.

Read more at <http://www.lote-at-home.com.au>

[< top >](#)

Educational Experience

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.

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

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

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

[< top >](#)

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)
- **Family School Partners** : http://www.familyschool.org.au/?page_id=6 (quarterly)

[< top >](#)

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