



Australian Council of State School Organisations

The National Voice of Parents of Children in Australia's Public Schools and Their School Communities

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 3 Number 13, 21 April 2009

We welcome parent organisations in Queensland's public schools as direct subscribers to this newsletter, thanks to the Queensland Council of Parents & Citizens Associations (QCPCA).

Like our 11,000+ other subscribers around Australia, we know you will extract maximum benefit from the Australian Education Digest and our other email newsletters and pass that on to your local school communities. We aim to keep you posted on news items, announcements, policy developments, programs, initiatives, resources, funding opportunities, awards programs, conferences and events.

If this results in anyone receiving more than one copy of the Digest, please drop a line with the details to <mailto:webmaster@acssso.org.au> and we will resolve this for you.

Parent organisation members of our other state and territory based affiliates are expected to add their members to our direct subscriber lists in the very near future.

- [ATTRACTING QUALITY TEACHERS: Pathways to attract the best graduates into teaching](#)
- [RETAINING STUDENTS: \(2 items\)](#)
- [SCHOOL PERFORMANCE: \(2 items\)](#)
- [FAMILY-SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: Schools First](#)
- [INDIGENOUS EDUCATION: \(2 items\)](#)
- [EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: \(2 items\)](#)
- [HEALTH & WELL-BEING: \(4 items\)](#)
- [AWARDS & PRIZES: Closing Soon](#)
- [AROUND THE STATES & TERRITORIES: \(10 items\)](#)
- [CONFERENCES & EVENTS: \(2 items\)](#)
- [REMINDERS](#)
- [ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS](#)

ATTRACTING QUALITY TEACHERS

Pathways to attract the best graduates into teaching

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 21 April 2009



The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today launched the Rudd Government's Teach for Australia initiative to attract the best and brightest university graduates into the nation's classrooms.

Research shows that nothing at school influences student outcomes more than excellent teaching.

Through Teach for Australia, high-achieving graduates from Australian universities will sign up for a unique and intensive 2 year placement in Australian schools where they can make the greatest difference. Throughout their two year experience the graduates will receive support and mentoring from experienced teachers and business leaders.

On completion of their placement and the university-designed, accredited teacher education course, participants will earn a teaching qualification.

Many will then go on to begin careers with the corporate employers who partner Teach for Australia and importantly,

many will continue their involvement with education, helping to create new solutions and strengthen community support.

The first intake of graduates will be placed in Victorian schools in 2010, where the Victorian Government is well placed to get this initiative off the ground. Up to 90 graduates will be recruited in the first year.

Businesses and graduates interested in participating should visit <http://www.teachforaustralia.org>

Read entire release: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090421_113134.aspx

[< top >](#)

RETAINING STUDENTS

OECD final report released - "Jobs for Youth: Australia"

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 20 April 2009

The Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Julia Gillard today welcomed the release of the OECD's final report 'Jobs for Youth: Australia'. The report reviews the transition of young Australians from school to work and backs the direction of the Rudd Government's Education Revolution.

The OECD has called for the Government to ensure more teenagers stay in school past the age of 16 in order to boost their skills and improve their job opportunities in the long term.

As the OECD has noted, lifting educational attainment is critical to developing a more productive workforce.

Currently, more Australians leave school at 16 than in most other OECD nations.

Read entire release: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090420_140257.aspx

Full details of the OECD report can be accessed at: <http://www.oecd.org/employment/youth>

[< top >](#)

Capital's new age: it's learn or earn

Emma Macdonald, Canberra Times, 14/04/2009

From the start of next year, all ACT residents under 17 will be required by law to be enrolled in school, learning a trade or working, as the ACT changes its minimum school leaving age from 15 to a "learning or earning" age of 17.

By ensuring young people are taking part in education, training or employment until the age of 17, the ACT will go from having the youngest leaving age in the country alongside the Northern Territory to coming into line with most other states.

ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr said the Government would table its legislation in the Legislative Assembly's spring sittings after issuing a community consultation paper yesterday which saw general support for the scheme.

Read entire article: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/capitals-new-age-its-learn-or-earn/1485458.aspx>

[< top >](#)

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Transparency in Schools

Education Ministers' Meeting Press Conference, Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 17 April 2009

This is a new era for Australia, a new nationally consistent system for all state schools around the country, but also for all non government schools around the country; the same reporting framework for every Australian school. It's been great to make that progress.

It was also great to see my ministerial colleague, Peter Garrett here, advocating with passion, as one would expect, on behalf of arts education, with an agreement that arts education will be part of our national curriculum process.

REPORTER: When you talked about the transparency in schools, when this year will that be available and how will parents get it?

JULIA GILLARD: Our transparency agenda is to have information available in this new form in 2009. In 2009, people will be able, through a website, to look at and get information about their own school and, importantly, be able to compare it with like schools.

Of course we are still committed to publishing the NAPLAN data so that for parents around the country whose child goes and does one of the national tests, they will get a comprehensive report of that national test so that they can see how their child is going. What is new is the school by school information, available publicly, with people able to compare the circumstances of like schools.

Read more at http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Transcripts/Pages/Article_090417_164237.aspx

[< top >](#)

Ministers fail on league tables

Australian Education Union, 17 April 2009

On Friday 17 April, 2009, the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) announced it would proceed with the release of data on school performance, including NAPLAN results, to allow for comparison between schools.

Despite expressing their opposition to simplistic league tables, Ministers have failed to outline what action will be taken to stop their creation and publication.

The damage to curriculum provision, students and entire school communities caused by league tables is well-documented in international research and evidence.

Research also shows that league tables create greater inequality and increased segregation as a result of shifts in student enrollment patterns.

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

[< top >](#)

FAMILY-SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

\$5 million to support partnerships that improve student outcomes



Schools First is about bringing together students, teachers, parents and community members, to support each other and help improve student outcomes.

With a prize pool of \$5 million every year for three years, Schools First is a national awards program that provides financial recognition of success in establishing effective school-community partnerships; and financial support to build stronger school-community partnerships.

And it's open to all Australian primary and secondary schools, whether they're public or private,

special needs, religious or independent. The awards include up to 60 local awards of \$50,000 each and up to eight state awards of \$100,000 each. And one outstanding national award recipient will receive \$500,000 - \$1 million!

From March to June 2009, a series of 80 public workshops are being held in cities and regional centres around Australia. The workshops provide community and school participants with practical guidance on how to create successful school and community partnerships and strengthen existing ones.

Workshop dates and locations: <http://www.schoolsfirst.edu.au/docs/SF-Workshops-110309.pdf>

General information and to sign up for the email newsletter: <http://www.schoolsfirst.edu.au/cms-home/index.php>< top >

[< top >](#)

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Indigenous children fall further behind every year they're at school

Andrew Fraser, The Australian, April 13, 2009

THE Productivity Commission has found that the gap between indigenous and other children in basic education requirements increases the longer they are at primary school.

While indigenous students are falling behind in all subjects, the area where the gap is largest at the end of primary school is in basic numeracy, says a commission report released late last week.

Mining the results of the 2007 national basic skills tests, the Report on Government Services 2009 found that the only time and subject where the gap narrows was between Years 3 and 5 in writing.

In all other instances in writing as well as in reading and numeracy, the gap increases as students get older.

Read entire article: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25325766-2702,00.html>

[< top >](#)

NT educators responsible for Indigenous 'underclass'

Sarah Dingle, ABC News, 13 April 2009

An academic who has just completed a review of education in the Northern Territory says the Territory's Education Department has inadvertently created an underclass.

Last year national testing showed Indigenous students in the Northern Territory had some of the highest illiteracy rates in the country. Now Dr Chris Sarra has taken a swipe at teachers for expecting less of their Aboriginal pupils. Dr Sarra is the director of the Indigenous Education Leadership Institute in Queensland.

"For too long too many of us had thought we'd been culturally sensitive by having watered-down or second-rate outcomes for Aboriginal children," he said. "Clearly that's not useful to us and is not very much in line with what Aboriginal people expect from education and what we should expect from education."

Dr Sarra has completed a review of the NT Education Department.

The review was commissioned after the department's chief executive officer was sacked by the territory Education Minister in October last year.

The report has been handed to the Territory Government, which says it will not release it for at least a month.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/13/2541473.htm>

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[< top >](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ABC2 Group announcement

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 15 April 2009

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard today welcomed the announcement by the Court Appointed Receivers for the ABC2 Group, PPB Corporate Recovery that new operators have been selected for the vast majority of ABC2 Group child care centres.

New operators have been identified by PPB for 210, or almost 90 per cent of the original 241 centres deemed unviable under the ABC business model in December 2008.

Greater diversity in the child care sector has been achieved, with PPB selecting a range of operators for the centres including not-for-profit organisations, individual owner operators and other private operators. This process has resulted in 65 different organisations running more than 200 child care centres. Previously just one organisation operated all 241 centres.

A full list of ABC2 centres and their status is available on PPB's website at <http://www.ppb.com.au>

A link to this list will be provided on the Australian Government's <http://www.mychild.gov.au> website.

Read entire release: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Pages/default.aspx>

[< top >](#)

NSW Minister rips up leases after child-care rent fiasco

Nick Galvin, Sydney Morning Herald, April 16, 2009

THE State Government has been forced to back-down after the Department of Education imposed massive rent increases on many non-profit child-care groups using school premises.

At least one out-of-school hours centre has been told to close its service and make way for a commercial operator, while many others have seen rents skyrocket by up to 400 per cent after being forced to sign leases.

Parent and community groups, who run 90 per cent of the 1100 groups that care for children before and after school, claim they have been "bullied" into signing leases by the Department of Education and Training after minimal

consultation.

Contacted by the Herald yesterday, the Minister for Education, Verity Firth, said the department had acted without her authority and ordered them to tear up the new leases.

Read entire article: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/minister-rips-up-leases-after-childcare-rent-fiasco-20090415-a7jj.html>

[< top >](#)

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Push for contraception education: "more important than broadband"

The Age, April 13, 2009 (AAP)

A leading sexual health group has called for funds to be diverted from the federal government's \$43 billion broadband network scheme to emergency contraception education.

Marie Stopes International (MSI) said new research suggesting young people don't know what emergency contraception - also known as the morning-after pill - is or how it works highlighted the need for a public education campaign on the subject.

The recently published survey of 460 far North Queensland tertiary students found just 20 per cent knew the correct time frame in which to use emergency contraception, with 42 per cent believing it was only effective for 24 hours.

In addition 40 per cent did not know the morning-after pill could be bought over-the-counter from a pharmacy without a prescription and 20 per cent were unaware of its existence altogether.

Read entire article: <http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/push-for-contraception-education-20090413-a4fb.html>

[< top >](#)

Urban design turning kids off being active

Dani Cooper, ABC Science, 13 April 2009

Poor urban design and safety fears are critical factors in determining whether children walk or cycle to school, say Australian researchers.

They say their findings can help inform public policy that will increase children travelling to school by foot or bicycle.

In the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Dr Clare Hume and colleagues report the proportion of Australian school children walking to school dropped from 37% in 1985 to 26% in 2001.

At the same time the proportion of children cycling to school is now so low it is statistically too insignificant to be considered on its own, says Hume, of Deakin University's Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research.

Hume says the decrease in what is known as active commuting has occurred at the same time as obesity rates among children have increased.

Although, the researcher says "it is drawing a long bow" to directly link the two, the decrease in walking and cycling to school is part of the overall reduction in physical activity amongst children.

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2008/09/18/2368222.htm>

[< top >](#)

Alcopops Legislation to curb reckless youth drinking

Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health & Hon Wayne Swan MP, Treasurer, 15 April 2009

As you would be aware, a few weeks ago the Rudd Government's alcopops measure - which was universally backed by health experts where the data was showing that the measure had been effective - was voted down by the Liberal Party.

... the Government intends to take two steps when Parliament resumes in May.

Firstly, we will introduce legislation to validate the revenue collected between the 27th April 2008 and the 13th May 2009.

Secondly, we intend to introduce a new tariff proposal with effect from the 14th May 2009 ensuring that the alcopops measure remains in place into the future. The Government will then introduce legislation to confirm this measure in the same session of Parliament.

We believe the alcopops measure is an effective public health measure and we know that public health experts around the country agree. We saw police - we saw parents - we saw hospital administrators and frontline paramedics - all calling for this measure to be supported. We believe it should be supported, and the actions that we will take when Parliament resumes will ensure that we have that opportunity.

Read entire media conference transcript:

<http://www.treasurer.gov.au/DisplayDocs.aspx?doc=transcripts/2009/056.htm&pageID=004&min=wms&Year=&DocType=>

[< top >](#)

Alcopops tax is the right decision

Rachel Siewert, Australian Greens, 15 April 2009

The decision by the Federal Government to reintroduce the 'Alcopops' tax was today welcomed by the Australian Greens as a common sense move to better managing alcohol-related harm.

"I am glad that the Government have seen the sense in this tax, and re-introduced the tariff on alcopops today," said Australian Greens health spokesperson Senator Rachel Siewert.

"The Greens have always focused on getting more action to tackle problem drinking in the community, and we have seen that the alcopops tax is an effective solution to this problem."

Read more at <http://rachel-siewert.greensmps.org.au/content/media-release/alcopops-tax-right-decision-greens>

[< top >](#)

AWARDS & PRIZES

Closing Soon

2009 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes - school entries close 1 May - <http://australianmuseum.net.au/eureka>

2009 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science Teaching - closing 8 May - <http://www.innovation.gov.au/scienceprizes>

[< top >](#)



[< top >](#)

AROUND THE STATES & TERRITORIES

NSW: Education department is out of control

John Kaye MP, Media Release, 16 April 2009

NSW Education Minister Verity Firth needs to get a firm grip on her department after revelations that bureaucrats bullied parent and community childcare providers without her permission, according to Greens NSW MP John Kaye.

Dr Kaye said: "Last weekend the Minister had to back-peddle [sic] furiously to distance herself from her department's plan to sell off land at public high schools over 6 hectares.

"Today she claims that she was unaware of bureaucrats forcing parent and community out-of-hours care providers on public school premises to renegotiate leases with rent increases of up to 400 per cent.

"Clearly someone is instructing the Department to treat public school lands as cash cows.

"Pushing up leases on community childcare and introducing commercial operators during a recession is a disaster for parents struggling to keep their lives together."

Read entire release: <http://johnkaye.org.au/news>

[< top >](#)

NSW: Govt rejects claims of school land sell-off

ABC News, Apr 12, 2009

The state education minister Verity Firth has rejected reports that the Government is planning a wide-scale sell-off of surplus school land to plug a hole in its budget.

The Opposition has released a leaked draft memo from the education department that outlines a strategy for identifying school land which can be sold.

The Opposition and Greens are warning that schools that fit the criteria could have their excess land sold without any consultation.

But Ms Firth says she has not seen the draft memo and the Government has no intention of adopting the plan.

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/12/2541078.htm>

[< top >](#)

NSW: Education win is a breakthrough for the iPhone

Mahesh Sharma, The Australian, April 14, 2009

APPLE'S iPhone has trumped the BlackBerry as the device to provide off-site email access for NSW Department of Education and Training staff. The department has bought 56 iPhones from its telecom supplier, Telstra, and decided

on Apple's popular handset after finding Research in Motion's BlackBerry did not function as well with its network.

The iPhones provide email access to staff when they are out of the office or outside working hours. "The iPhones have been handed out across the board to people who need to access DET email after hours," a spokesman said.

The department originally considered the BlackBerry but after testing discovered it was not supported by the department's network. "We don't use the BlackBerry because it does not synchronise with our emails," the spokesman said.

Read entire article: <http://www.australianit.news.com.au/story/0,24897,25329465-15306,00.html>

[< top >](#)

NT: Australian of the Year Visits Successful NT Schools

Paul Henderson, Chief Minister, 20 April 2009

The Australian of the Year Mick Dodson is visiting Northern Territory schools this week as part of a national tour to get every Australian child in school by next year.

The Northern Territory took up Professor Dodson's challenge and the Chief Minister Paul Henderson invited him to see some of the Territory's successful education programs.

The pair today visited Millner Primary School.

"Millner is a great example of an innovative program to get students to school, get them engaged and keep them in school," Mr Henderson said.

"I want to ensure that every Territory child receives the best education possible. That can only happen if we're getting those kids to attend school."

Read more at <http://newsroom.nt.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=viewRelease&id=5410&d=5>

[< top >](#)

NT: Education system 'a failure'

ABC News, Apr 14, 2009

A senior fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies has labelled the Northern Territory's education system a 'failure'.

Helen Hughes has released a paper reinforcing that students from remote schools perform a lot worse in literacy and numeracy than their metropolitan counterparts.

Professor Hughes says by encouraging bilingual education programs in remote schools, the Northern Territory Government has failed to achieve results in any language.

She is calling on the Government to streamline education.

"[The] Northern Territory is an outlier on every single test of numeracy and literacy, years three, five, seven and nine," she said.

"The results are appalling. They amount to a 100 percent failure rate."

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/14/2542403.htm>

[< top >](#)

QLD: Seven new schools slated for South East Queensland

Brisbane Times, April 20, 2009 (AAP)

Seven new state schools will be built in Queensland's southeast, generating thousands of new jobs, Treasurer Andrew Fraser says.

Mr. Fraser said a landmark \$1.1 billion public private partnership (PPP) school project would design, build and maintain six new primary and one new high school in the rapidly-growing Sunshine Coast, western corridor, Gold Coast and Redlands regions.

He said the Aspire Schools consortium - led by Leighton Contractors and the Commonwealth Bank - ensured the eco-friendly schools would be fast tracked and cared for, leaving principals and teachers to get on with the job of teaching.

"It will generate 2,150 new jobs over the four-and-a-half year construction period and many more during the 30-year ongoing maintenance period delivered by the consortium," Mr. Fraser said.

Construction will begin soon on Thornlands South and Peregrine Springs primary schools, due to open in 2010.

Primary schools at Bellbird Park, Collingwood Park and East Coomera will also open in 2010, while a new primary school at Bundilla and high school at Murrumba Downs will be ready by 2012.

Read entire article: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/qld-news/seven-new-schools-slated-for-south-east-queensland-20090420-ac5u.html>

[< top >](#)

TAS: Students leave to attend Gallipoli dawn service

David Bartlett MP, Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, 21 April 2009

A delegation of six Tasmanian students, teachers and RSL representatives leave for Gallipoli tomorrow to represent the State at traditional commemorative events in Turkey.

Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, David Bartlett, said today that six student winners of the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize would leave Tasmania tomorrow afternoon on a 16-day trip that includes a tour of the battlefields of Europe.

Mr Bartlett said that the group, led by Police Minister Jim Cox, was honoured to be part of Saturday's dawn service in Gallipoli.

"The delegation will also attend the Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine Cemetery," he said.

Read more at <http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=26467>

[< top >](#)

VIC: Elite private schools willing to bankrupt parents in fees grab

Ben Butler & John Masanauskas, Herald Sun, April 21, 2009

ELITE private schools are bankrupting parents over unpaid school fees as little as \$4000.

And more struggling parents face lawsuits from hard-hearted schools as the economic crisis carves into the family budget.

A survey of bankruptcy actions by Melbourne's top schools shows Wesley College and Methodist Ladies College have

been most willing to bankrupt parents.

Over the past two years each launched five bankruptcy actions in the Federal Magistrates' Court, with Wesley successfully bankrupting two parents and MLC one.

Read entire article: <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25362258-661,00.html>

[< top >](#)

VIC: Top Jobs Announced for School Building Program

Bronwyn Pike, Education Minister, 20 April 2009

Jobs for more than 60 people from across four building project groups have been announced to manage the building of hundreds of new Victorian school facilities.

Education Minister Bronwyn Pike announced the companies that will manage the huge Victorian schools rebuilding program as part of the Rudd Government's Economic Stimulus Plan.

"The Brumby Government in partnership with the Federal Government is taking action to create jobs to boost the economy and deliver world-class educational facilities for Victorian families," Ms Pike said.

"This funding will deliver new school buildings right across the state for Victorian children and teachers and we have been working tirelessly in Victoria to get these projects moving so that schools see their new buildings sooner."

Read more at <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/minister-for-education/top-jobs-announced-for-school-building-program.html>

[< top >](#)

WA: Minister to lead university delegation to China

Liz Constable, Education Minister, 15 April 2009

Education Minister Liz Constable is to lead a delegation of vice-chancellors from four Perth universities to China to promote and profile the city as a location for high-quality higher education.

During next week's visit, the delegation would meet key members of government, education officials and university representatives in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing and Hangzhou.

The delegation would include:

- The University of Western Australia Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson.
- Curtin University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jeanette Hackett.
- Edith Cowan University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kerry Cox.
- Murdoch University Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gary Martin.

Dr Constable said that education was now Australia's third biggest export earner behind coal and iron ore, outperforming wheat, wine and wool.

Read more at <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Lists/Statements/DispForm.aspx?ID=131687>

[< top >](#)

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

National Values Education Conference 2009

Values in Action - Shaping Positive Futures

30 April-1 May 2009, Canberra ACT

The 2009 Conference aims to:

- Explore the implementation of the National Framework for Values Education
- Provide an update on the Values Education Program in action in schools around the country
- Explore the links between values education, student well-being and their positive learning and development
- Assess the research in values education and its longer term impacts for school communities

The conference brings together international and national speakers, students, parents plus curriculum leaders, teachers, principals,

Read more at: <http://www.acsa.edu.au/pages/page429.asp>

[< top >](#)



National Education Conference 2009

“Schools – Heart of our community”

12-13 October 2009, Hobart, Tasmania

The Australian Council of State School Organisations and the Australian Parents Council jointly present this major event exploring the vital issues of education from parent & community perspectives.

The peak national groups for the parents of students in public and private schools invite you to explore the current state and future directions of education and how it shapes our society.

As this newsletter is being prepared, we can announce a major addition to the program of speakers: Lyn Allison – former Australian Democrats leader and spokesperson on educational issues will join an invited panel to discuss the implications of a Report to be launched at the Conference on the impacts and achievements of chaplaincy and pastoral care programs in Australian schools, in a wide ranging session titled “Building resilience, well-being and community”.

A program outline, preliminary speaker list and Early Bird discounted registration opportunities can be found online at <http://www.acssso.org.au/natconf09/> .

[< top >](#)

REMINDERS

March-May - Teaching Australia Workshops and Masterclasses - locations around Australia - <http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au>

1 May - Nominations close for Australian Museum Eureka Prizes - <http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka/>

7-9 May - Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment Conference - Canberra, ACT -

<http://www.agosci.org.au>

8 May - Nominations close for Prime Minister's Prizes for Science and Science Teaching - <https://grants.innovation.gov.au/SciencePrize/Pages/Home.aspx>

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

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

25 May - Boys & Learning Conference - Parramatta, NSW - <https://aben-2009.schoolevent.org>

26 May - Boys & Learning Conference - Melbourne, VIC - <https://aben-2009.schoolevent.org>

31 May - Australian Rural Education Awards nominations close - <http://www.spera.edu.au>

15-16 June - Communities in Control Conference - Melbourne, VIC - <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic2009>

19 June - Nominations close for Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence - <http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au>

4-7 July - Contasta Science Education Conference - Launceston, TAS - <http://www.cdeshign.com.au/conasta58>

5-8 July - World Conference on Higher Education - Paris, France - http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=56642&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

5-10 July - Youth ANZAAS 2009 - Melbourne, Victoria - <http://www.anzaas.org.au/youth.html>

8-10 July - SPERA National Conference - Flinders University, SA - <http://www.spera.edu.au//conferences/callforpapers.pdf>

9 July - Registration closes for Environmental Song for Australia Contest - <http://www.imex.net.au/envsoncont.html>

13-16 July - Conference of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers - Fremantle, WA - <http://www.aamt.edu.au/2009-conference>

31 July - Nominations close for ASG Inspirational Teacher Awards - <http://www.neita.com>

31 July-1 August - NSW Federation of Parents' & Citizens' Associations Annual Conference - Penrith, NSW - <http://www.pandc.org.au/annual-conference.seo>

6-7 August - Professional Development Network School Leaders' Conference - Gold Coast, QLD - <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/professional-development-network-leadership-conference-2009>

13-14 August - Isolated Children's Parents' Assoc. of Australia Federal Conference - Longreach, QLD - <http://www.icpa.com.au>

26-28 September - ACEL International Conference - Darwin, NT - <http://www.ancel.org.au/index.php?id=858>

12-13 October - ACSSO National Conference - Hobart, Tasmania - <http://www.acsso.org.au/natconf09/>

[< 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)

- Family School Partners : http://www.familyschool.org.au/?page_id=6 (quarterly)
- Public Education Voice : <http://www.acsso.org.au/pev.htm> (quarterly)

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