



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 22, 23 June 2009

- [EDUCATIONAL EQUITY: A new progressive consensus for Australian schools](#)
- [COMPARING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE: \(4 items\)](#)
- [BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION: \(5 items\)](#)
- [RURAL & REGIONAL EDUCATION: Greens & Coalition call for Inquiry](#)
- [INDIGENOUS EDUCATION: School is only part of an education for indigenous children](#)
- [CYBER-BULLYING: Authorities powerless against online death threats](#)
- [TEACHER EDUCATION: University of Melbourne selected to Teach for Australia](#)
- [STUDENT RETENTION: Maybe online courses can re-engage school drop outs?](#)
- [EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: New child care closure requirements](#)
- [HEALTH & WELL-BEING: Junk food, smoking](#)
- [VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: \\$200 million for TAFEs to keep Australia working](#)
- [RESEARCH: OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey](#)
- [AROUND THE STATES & TERRITORIES: \(13 items\)](#)
- [REMINDERS](#)
- [ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS](#)

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

A new progressive consensus for Australian schools

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education – from speech to the Brookings Institute in Washington on 19 June 2009

...We are determined that every child, in every school, should receive the highest quality instruction and learning. And this is not currently the case. The pattern of recent change had created an opaque, fragmented funding system and no clear national priorities for improvement, reform or accountability.

...Australia has a serious educational equity problem. Too many students from disadvantaged backgrounds are clustered in a small number of schools, with low expectations and low rates of achievement. This has caused our participation and attainment rates at Year 12 to plateau for the last decade or more at around 75 per cent.

The upshot is that a child from a working class family is only half as likely as a child from a high income family to go on to tertiary study – and has a far lower chance still of getting into an elite institution or faculty. And, of course, that a young person who does not complete secondary education is about four times more likely than one who does complete to be unemployed in later life.

The situation is of course much worse for Indigenous students, who have massive gaps in literacy and numeracy outcomes that begin in the earliest years and suppress their year-12 graduation rates dramatically. This is a significant source of shame to a nation as wealthy as ours – and it is a form of de facto discrimination the Rudd Government has committed itself to overcoming.

This level of failure is not acceptable. We know that we live in complex and diverse societies. But I do not accept that, in these societies, disadvantage is destiny.

Read entire speech transcript: <http://tinyurl.com/oeshz3>

[< top >](#)

COMPARING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Firth moves towards school league tables in NSW

Anna Patty, Sydney Morning Herald, June 9, 2009

THE State Government will change the Education Act to allow school league tables to be created in new national school report cards to be released later this year. The decision will raise the stakes in the teacher union's war against league tables and threaten a boycott of the national numeracy and literacy tests for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 next year.

The Department of Education has received legal advice that NSW legislation introduced a decade ago to prevent the creation of school league tables will need to be amended to allow NSW to meet new federal school reporting requirements.

The regulation preventing publication of school league tables in NSW using exam test scores is the only one of its kind in Australia. It prevents the public release of student results "in a way that ranks or otherwise compares the results of particular schools". This has prevented the publication of school league tables using raw HSC and Basic Skill Test results and university entrance rankings for the past 10 years.

The president of the Australian Education Union, Angelo Gavrielatos, said that if NSW changes its legislation preventing league tables it would be only a matter of time before they appeared across the country. Newspapers in Tasmania and Queensland have already begun publishing school league tables using national test data.

"Measures aimed at stopping league tables are being taken away," Mr. Gavrielatos said.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/mhuneg>

[< top >](#)

Possible 'misuse' of school data forcing rewrite of rules

Farrah Tomazin, the Age, June 11, 2009

THE guidelines for the Rudd Government's contentious plan to publish more information on how schools perform are being reviewed, as anger builds over the data being "misused" to create league tables.

The proposed guidelines make clear that performance data should only be collected and reported for three reasons: to make schools more accountable to parents and the community; to track whether students are achieving agreed education targets; and to ensure that funding is directed to where it is needed most.

But in a move that is likely to prove contentious, the draft protocols have omitted a crucial "ethical" clause contained in the old guidelines, which highlighted the importance of avoiding "harm to members of the community".

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/l3vkfx>

[< top >](#)

Ban lifted on school league tables

Anna Patty, Sydney Morning Herald, June 19, 2009

THE State Government introduced a bill yesterday to lift its 10-year ban on the creation of school league tables.

The Minister for Education, Verity Firth, said the amendment to the Education Act was necessary for NSW to qualify for \$4.8 billion in recurrent Federal Government funding. Despite the Government's long-standing opposition to school league tables, Ms Firth said she would not "put billions of dollars of funding at risk".

"We make no apologies for our unequivocal stand on the transparency of school information," she said. "Why should the education minister or department have access to information about schools that ordinary mums and dads don't have?"

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/nlgvjc>

[< top >](#)

Firth's league table bill washes hands of damage done to schools

John Kaye MP, 19 June 2009

NSW Education Minister Verity Firth has introduced legislation that will damage education and undermine schools, according to Greens NSW MP John Kaye. "Verity Firth has washed her hands of the devastating impacts that league tables will have on schools that serve disadvantaged communities.

"Her claim that this legislation is about transparency is nonsense. Ms Firth is deliberately ignoring the accountability already provided by annual school reports. Parents and the community have full access to detailed information on the performance of every school in NSW. The Minister's legislation will allow the Commonwealth government to put all that information on a single website, making school league tables inevitable".

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/mo7jvj>

[< top >](#)

BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Wealthy schools win cash bonanza from grants

Anna Patty, Sydney Morning Herald, June 20, 2009

SYDNEY'S wealthiest private schools are being given as much as \$3 million each from the Federal Government's school building program while making annual surpluses of up to \$3.6 million. The bonus is on top of the \$13 million in government funding some already receive.

Grants to primary schools from the Prime Minister's \$14.7 billion stimulus package take no account of wealth but are based on the number of students. Secondary schools receive bonuses under the Building the Education Revolution program based on need.

Cranbrook School generated \$28.7 million from tuition fees, received \$3.4 million in government funding and recorded a \$1.2 million surplus in 2007, according to its latest report to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. The school was also given \$7.9 million in donations, the report says.

The school, which charges year 12 students \$24,288 for annual tuition fees, has been given a \$3 million bonus for a new hall at its Rose Bay junior school campus. It has also received \$200,000 under the secondary schools' program to expand its centre for students with special needs.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/mcdnlf>

[< top >](#)

Are our wealthy private schools hoarding public funds?

John Kaye MP, 20 June 2009

Massive state and federal subsidies are bloating the finances of already wealthy private schools, according to Greens NSW MP John Kaye.

"At a time when public schools are struggling to find resources for students with special needs, wealthy private institutions are showing very healthy financial surpluses," Dr Kaye said. "The figures are a direct challenge to NSW Education Minister Verity Firth and her federal colleague Julia Gillard and their private school handouts.

"Schools such as Queenwood and Cranbrook can hoard government subsidies while public schools are operating hand to mouth.

"The legislation must be fixed to ensure that public money is spent where it will do the greatest good, not on bloating the treasure chests of the already wealthy institutions.

"The NSW government hands over more than \$830 million a year to private schools without any controls on whether the money is spent or not.

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/mo7jvj>

[< top >](#)

Just twenty-four complaints roll in from twenty-two schools...

Matthew Franklin, the Australian, June 19, 2009

Twenty-two schools have complained to the Rudd government over its \$14.7 billion schools infrastructure program, which the opposition savaged yesterday as a shambles and an exercise in political pork-barrelling.

Kevin Rudd has acknowledged problems with the program, urging schools and parents groups to inform the government if they have concerns about wastage or inflexibility in its guidelines.

Acting Education Minister Kim Carr told The Australian yesterday that the co-ordinator of the program had received 24 complaints regarding 22 projects.

Senator Carr, who had earlier accused The Australian of contriving reports about the program's deficiencies, said the complaints were mainly from school councils and principals, relating to the implementation of the program.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/lrrjsx>

[< top >](#)

Kevin Rudd's local school gets \$3m for double-ups

Justine Ferrari, the Australian, June 16, 2009

HOLLAND Park State School in Kevin Rudd's suburban Brisbane electorate just finished building a brand new multi-purpose hall for \$1.3 million, but under the federal government's school infrastructure program they will receive \$1.5m to build another.

The school also received \$1.5m to build a resource centre - the modern word for library - even though it already has a perfectly good library.

Under the \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution, as interpreted by the Queensland Education Department, schools must give priority to building a library before considering any other project.

P&C president Craig Mayne said the school had no choice but to check the boxes for the \$3m it is entitled to under the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program, even though it would rather reconfigure its classrooms to accommodate some big classes.

Read entire article: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/lhwwqg>

[< top >](#)

\$400,000 shade too much: Hastings Public School principal

Matthew Clayfield, the Australian, June 16, 2009

THE Rudd government gave \$400,000 to a school to build a structure that cost only a 10th of that six years ago. Hastings Public School has been allocated \$400,000 as part of the latest education stimulus rollout, to build a covered outdoor learning area (COLA). The NSW mid-north coast school also received \$2.6 million to build a double permanent classroom with a special purpose room.

The school's principal, Grant Heaton, said yesterday both figures seemed too high, especially given the school had built a COLA in 2003 for \$40,000.

"I certainly raised my eyebrows," Mr. Heaton told The Australian. "I am intrigued as to how the figures have been arrived at and who gave them a figure of \$400,000 for what is essentially a weather shelter. I'm expecting the Taj Mahal of COLAs."

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/lr9cyk>

[< top >](#)



[< top >](#)

RURAL & REGIONAL EDUCATION

Greens join with Coalition to move for Inquiry into rural, regional uni struggles

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Media Release, 15 June 2009

The Greens have joined forces with the Coalition to move for a Senate Inquiry into how to better support rural and regional students in the wake of changes to Youth Allowance.

Today Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young and Nationals Senator Fiona Nash gave notice of motion to refer the Youth Allowance changes' impact on rural and regional students to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee.

"The obstacles to accessing higher education for young people in rural and regional Australia deserve proper examination through a Senate Inquiry," said Senator Hanson-Young, Greens spokesperson for Education.

Read entire Release: <http://tinyurl.com/mo7jvj>

[< top >](#)

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

School is only part of an education for indigenous children

Jude Davies, THE Age, May 23, 2009

HERE we go again, thinking maybe we should take the children away — for their own good, so they can have a "proper" education and perhaps even fit nicely into mainstream Australian society.

This, despite a clear statement from the Laynhapuy Homelands Association, which represents 19 communities in north-eastern Arnhem Land: "(We) ... do not wish to be assimilated or mainstreamed." They go on to say that they "strongly value their culture and law and links to country".

It was this valuing and the need to resist being mainstreamed that led to the homelands movement in the 1970s. Aboriginal people moved in small groups — with 35 or so members — to their traditional country, away from the shiny influence of big settlements such as Maningrida and Gunbalanya. It is such small group structures that have worked so well for these people for longer than anyone can remember.

Now the Northern Territory's Chief Minister's Department is suggesting in a report that children from these remote homelands in Arnhem Land should be taken by bus to large regional schools.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/n4rcss>

[< top >](#)

CYBER-BULLYING

Authorities powerless against online death threats

Simon Lauder, ABC News, 20 June 2009

Anonymous abusers are apparently getting away with obscene and violent bullying tactics against teenagers in Western Australia because they are doing the cyber bullying on a US based website. Despite spurious and nasty allegations and death threats, the teenagers have been advised to get new phone numbers and a lawyer.

The website purports to be a forum for people to complain about anyone. It also seeks to make a point about internet censorship. But for 18-year-old Majella Sheppard it is just a form of abuse and harassment.

"There were some threats in there and there's just been another one made recently saying that my family's going to die one by one," she said. "I wasn't too happy about that when I read it.

There have been calls for the police to take action against those behind the website. But head of the Victoria Police E-crime squad, Inspector John Manley, says there is not much he can do. Inspector Manley says Australian authorities are powerless to act because the site is based in the United States.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/lb39mo>

[< top >](#)



[< top >](#)

TEACHER EDUCATION

University of Melbourne selected to Teach for Australia

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 16 June 2009

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today announced that the University of Melbourne has been selected to work with Teach for Australia to develop and run a national teacher education course for top graduates entering the teaching workforce.

The Rudd Government's Teach for Australia initiative has been developed to attract the best and brightest university graduates into the nation's classrooms. Through the initiative, high-calibre graduates from Australian universities will sign up for a unique and intensive two-year teaching placement in Australian schools.

After preliminary training at the University of Melbourne, the graduates, supported by in-school mentors, will be placed in challenging school environments to help raise student achievement.

Building on their past success in developing teacher education courses such as the recently introduced Master of Teaching program, the University of Melbourne will work closely with employers and teacher registration authorities to develop a rigorous, fully supported, employment-based, teacher education course.

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/oeshz3>

[< top >](#)

STUDENT RETENTION

Maybe online courses can re-engage school drop outs?

Pia Akerman, the Australian, June 18, 2009

STATE education departments are considering moves for a national pilot program of online courses for high-school dropouts, qualifying teenagers for tertiary education and improving their job chances through internet study based on a successful British format.

Jean Johnson, a former high school teacher, developed the notschool.net program, which is in its ninth year in Britain and has versions in Ireland and Detroit. This week, she is meeting with representatives from the education departments of NSW, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and the ACT to discuss the possibility of similar online programs to keep dropouts learning.

"There are lots and lots of kids out of school who need to do something different," Ms Johnson said. "It might not be face-to-face intervention, but there's a huge amount of intervention from qualified, skilled teaching people, actually making sure the kids do log on and do some work. They come out with what I would call 'hard currency' for college and employment."

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/nj8bsy>

[< top >](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Families set to be better informed under new child care closure requirements

The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth, 18 June, 2009

The Australian Government will tighten requirements to ensure that child care providers write to parents to inform them of a decision to close a centre.

The Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Child Care, Kate Ellis, said that the changes will flow from the Family Legislation Amendment (Child Care) Bill which passed the Senate today.

As a consequence, operators who are planning on closing their child care operations will have to provide 30 days notice to parents and supply evidence to the Government that they have done so.

In the unfortunate instance where a child care provider makes the decision to close a service – it is critical that families are informed immediately so they can arrange alternative means of care.

The 800,000 families who rely on child care around Australia will now be better informed when it comes to decisions regarding the future of their child care.

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/m6nmhw>

[< top >](#)

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Pies and junk foods returning to school canteens

Bruce McDougall, Daily Telegraph, June 15 2009

THE Aussie pie, pizzas and sausage rolls are back in school canteens as the war against child obesity falters and threatens to collapse. Lollies, ice creams, chips and even banned sports drinks have also re-emerged on school menus because thousands of families are snubbing healthier foods.

Nutritionists and dietitians are desperately trying to rescue the \$750,000 school health campaign launched five years ago by former Premier Bob Carr. They are offering "low fat" Aussie beef pies, pizzas made with wholemeal pita bread and vegetables and chicken burgers to children who turn their noses up at salads and wraps.

The anti-health push is greatest at secondary level where students leave school grounds to eat at local fast food outlets or order in takeaway pizza on their mobile phones. Dietitians have told The Daily Telegraph some schools are offering pies to children three times a day - at breakfast, recess and lunch.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/lo25r3>

[< top >](#)

Smoking drivers with kids forced to butt out in NSW

Sydney Morning Herald, June 21, 2009

PLACES where smoking is prohibited in NSW will soon include cars, if any of their passengers are under the age of 16.

Billboards and print advertisements will start this weekend to remind drivers and smokers of a new law aimed at protecting children. The law comes into effect on July 1.

"Any driver or passenger who is caught violating this new law could attract a \$250 on-the-spot fine from NSW Police," the Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), Jodi McKay, said yesterday.

The co-ordinator of a coalition of pressure groups called Protecting Children from Tobacco, Stafford Saunders, said exposure to second-hand smoke could greatly increase the risk of childhood asthma.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/nxzyuz>

[< top >](#)

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

\$200 million for TAFEs to keep Australia working

Senator Hon Mark Arbib, 19 June 2009

The Acting Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Mark Arbib, today announced that 32 TAFE institutes will share in \$200 million for training infrastructure which will help keep Australia working.

This \$200 million Training Infrastructure Investment for Tomorrow (TIIFT) forms part of the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Vocational Education and Training, which is a \$500 million plan to modernise and improve the quality of teaching and learning across the vocational education and training sector.

The TIIFT will be matched by a further \$80 million in contributions from successful applicants.

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/ncn8h7>

[< top >](#)

RESEARCH

OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 16 June 2009

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today welcomed the release of the 2008 OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) report. TALIS was conducted in 23 countries and provides the first internationally comparable data on conditions affecting teachers in schools.

The initial round of research was conducted with teachers and principals engaged in lower secondary education in both the public and private sectors. It focused on the leadership and management of schools, the appraisal and professional development of teachers and the impact these matters have on the learning environment.

The OECD report shows that internationally, there is a shortage of qualified teachers hindering the capacity of schools to deliver instruction.

TALIS results suggest that in Australia, a high level of funding is allocated for staffing and that our students benefit from below average class sizes.

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/oeshz3>

[< top >](#)

AROUND THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ACT: Minister includes non-government schools in Special Education Review

Andrew Barr MLA, Education Minister, 17 June 2009

Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr today announced that non-government schools will participate in the Shaddock Review into special education services in the ACT.

This follows a request to the Government last week from the Catholic Education Office, the Association of Independent Schools, and the Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools.

"Professor Shaddock is examining national and international leading practice in curriculum and teaching for students with disabilities. He is also providing advice on future options for special education services. Today's announcement means that children in all schools can benefit from Professor Shaddock's expertise and advice," Mr Barr said.

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/lagtex>

[< top >](#)

ACT: Union to keep 'close eye' on school reviews

ABC News, 19 June 2009

The ACT Government says all public schools will have to develop detailed school plans and publish them on their websites from next year. Schools will also be reviewed by an independent expert in 2013 who will produce a public report on their performance.

The Government says the new framework will ensure schools monitor their own performance and provide more information to parents.

Penny Gilmour from the Australian Education Union says she will be keeping a close eye on the changes. "In principle we have no difficulty with measures that assist schools to investigate their practice," she said. "Certainly it's important for schools to be able to track their own performance and be the best that they can possibly be."

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/l9sx8o>

[< top >](#)

NSW: Public schools ripped off by centralised purchasing policy

John Kaye MP, 22 June 2009

Education Minister Verity Firth's centralised school purchasing system is damaging public schools and small businesses Dr Kaye said: "While private schools can shop around and reduce their costs, public schools are locked into inflated prices for everything from batteries to photocopiers.

"Public school budgets are already tight before they are forced to pay more for goods and services under the government purchasing rip-off.

"Exaggerated purchasing prices are taking money away from extra teaching time, better equipment and regular maintenance."

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/m5a5vh>

[< top >](#)

NSW: School principals do the sums on wasteful system

Anna Patty, Sydney Morning Herald, June 22, 2009

THE principal of a school in country NSW put in an order for supplies under the Department of Education's new guidelines. All they wanted was a box of ice creams, a bag of cheese and four bags of muffins.

But instead of buying them from the local shops, the department arranged for them to be delivered by three different suppliers in Sydney. The incident is among hundreds of complaints in response to a survey by the Public Schools Principals Forum.

The NSW Education Department has centralised the purchase of goods and services for public schools, preventing them from making their own arrangements. Large companies have been contracted to fill the orders, angering small local businesses, particularly in regional and rural areas.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/maagwx>

[< top >](#)

NSW: Bullying victim wins \$470k payout

ABC News, Jun 19, 2009

A New South Wales man has successfully sued the state's Education Department for the bullying he suffered as a schoolboy in the 1990s.

David Gregory, 30, from Mollymook, south of Sydney, suffers obsessive compulsive disorder and agoraphobia and has blamed his condition on bullying he was subject to while at the Farrer Agricultural High School in Tamworth.

He was seeking more than \$2 million in lost earnings, but Justice Elizabeth Fullerton has awarded him almost \$470,000 for losses connected to his inability to work.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/mwbdhb>

[< top >](#)

NT: Revamp planned for school certificate

ABC News, Jun 15, 2009

The Government is examining a revamp of the Northern Territory Certificate of Education that will recognise vocational training.

A discussion paper has been released on the new system, which will be called the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training from 2011.

The new system will incorporate certificate 2 and 3, but students will also still have to meet the compulsory standards in English and maths.

The Chief Minister, Paul Henderson, says the changes will allow students to focus on an academic or a training pathway.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/mxwuu8>

[< top >](#)

QLD: Extra teachers, higher standards for education in State Budget

Minister for Education and Training The Honourable Geoff Wilson, June 16, 2009

The Bligh Government will employ 350 additional teachers and teacher aides next financial year to cater for booming enrolments in Queensland's schools, Treasurer Andrew Fraser said today.

Handing down the 2009-10 State Budget, Mr Fraser said the Bligh Government was committed to improving literacy and numeracy standards among Queensland kids.

"In tough times, the Government has made tough choices, but we will not back away from investing in Queensland kids," Mr Fraser said.

"Along with a massive \$18.2 billion building program that will support and create thousands of jobs, we are committed to investing in key services such as education."

Education and Training Minister Geoff Wilson said the department's \$7.838 billion budget focused on giving children a flying start, laying strong educational foundations and developing skills for the changing economic environment.

Read entire release at: <http://tinyurl.com/nwwhzw>

[< top >](#)

SA: Parents to retain vote on public schools' fees and charges

Hon Jane Lomax-Smith MP, AS Education Minister, 17 June 2009

Parents will continue to have a vote on any proposed increases to a school's materials and services charge, Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith has assured.

Under the present system, a governing council can only increase a school's legally recoverable materials and services charge above the 'standard' amount with the majority support of parents and final approval from the Chief Executive.

The 'standard' amount in 2009 is \$194 for primary students and \$259 for secondary students.

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/nwp7s7>

[< top >](#)

SA: Schools 'struggling' with power bills

ABC News, 22 June 2009

The South Australian Opposition says some schools are struggling to pay power bills because of the Government's funding formula.

It says public schools only get funded for 75 per cent of their power and Urrbrae Agricultural High has to find an extra \$125,000 to pay its power bill while Unley High is considering a levy to cover its bill.

The Education Minister, Jane Lomax-Smith, says such a levy would be unreasonable, as would seeking more funding from the Government.

"One of the school council members suggested that a levy be given to parents to support the excessive use of electricity in schools, I think this is quite unreasonable," she said.

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/ntm3pk>

[< top >](#)

TAS: New Flexible Learning School

David Bartlett MP, Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, 22 June 2009

Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, David Bartlett, today announced that a Flexible Learning School will be established in Tasmania.

"The school, which is as part of the State Government's partnership with the Australian Government, will offer personalised learning that meets all learning needs, including digital and online learning," Mr Bartlett said.

"It will cater for students who need additional learning, including highly able and gifted students, those who can't attend school for a variety of physical, medical or geographical reasons, and students for whom regular school isn't a viable option.

"The school will bring together existing services including Distance Education, the Online Learning Network and the Centre for Extended Learning Opportunities to deliver efficient and

effective services.

"It aims to ensure a student-focussed education built around personalised programs to suit a broad range of student needs and interests. "

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/lo3yIk>

[< top >](#)

TAS: Launching into Learning funded for another four years

David Bartlett MP, Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, 22 June 2009

Tasmania's highly successful early years education program, Launching into Learning, has been guaranteed a further \$4.25 million a year for the next four years.

Premier and Minister and Education and Skills David Bartlett said today that \$4.25 million would be spent in 2009-10, an increase of \$224,000 from last financial year.

"Due to its outstanding successful and wide support throughout the Tasmanian community, Launching into Learning will receive a further four years' funding, that is, \$4.25 m each year until 2013," Mr Bartlett said.

"The early years is one of my three key priorities as Premier and the Minister for Education and Skills.

"We want to give Tasmania's youngest children the best possible start in life by supporting parents as their child's first ongoing and often most influential teacher."

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/kqc3ja>

[< top >](#)

VIC: Warrnambool students to study Koori history

ABC News, 22 June 2009

A program believed to be a Victorian first will aim to bridge the gap between Warrnambool's Indigenous and non-Indigenous school students. Teachers at Warrnambool College have been training for a program that will introduce local Koori history into the curriculum.

The school will trial the program later this year and it is hoped it will go to all schools next year.

Adeline McDonald, from the Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Co-operative, says the classes will promote understanding.

"If they have a better understanding of the local history and about the culture, it provides a better working environment for everyone," she said. "It's not only for the Indigenous students - it's probably being able to develop something for non-Indigenous students as well."

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/nlhj9y>

[< top >](#)

WA: Warning of \$20,000 school power slug

Yasmine Phillips, West Australian, 22 June 2009

WA schools could be hit with increases of more than \$20,000 to their electricity bills over the next two years the Opposition warned yesterday, in a move the State's leading parenting group claimed would affect children's education.

Shadow education minister Michelle Roberts said the annual electricity bill for an average metropolitan high school of \$80,000 would rocket when a 10 per cent rise was imposed next year, followed by another 25.9 per cent increase in 2011.

"This will be an exorbitant cost burden that all WA schools will be forced to suffer," she said. "Schools already paying \$80,000 a year will be forced to find another \$20,720 in 2010-11 without any support from the Government. It will be student services and parents' pockets that are hit the hardest."

WA Council of State School Organisations president Robert Fry said it would be almost impossible for some schools to find another \$20,000 in their annual budget to pay for electricity.

"There is no doubt it will have a front-line effect on their education," he said. "It's taking money away from the front-line requirements and what the money is there for, the education of our children, and this is of grave concern to parents."

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/lklwgc>

[< top >](#)

REMINDERS

4-7 July - Contasta Science Education Conference - Launceston, TAS - <http://tinyurl.com/r4yluh>

5-8 July - World Conference on Higher Education - Paris, France - <http://tinyurl.com/p3624s>

5-10 July - Youth ANZAAS 2009 - Melbourne, VIC - <http://tinyurl.com/oroyk4>

8-10 July - SPERA National Conference - Flinders University, SA - <http://tinyurl.com/qtifkn>

9 July - Registration closes for Environmental Song for Australia Contest - <http://tinyurl.com/pp4yjg>

13-16 July - Conference of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers - Fremantle, WA - <http://tinyurl.com/qgjf9f>

14-15 July - Educational Leadership and Coaching Conference - Sydney, NSW - <http://tinyurl.com/kk3ree>

31 July - Nominations close for NEiTA ASG Inspirational Teacher Awards - <http://tinyurl.com/ojih3z>

31 July-1 August - NSW Federation of Parents' & Citizens' Associations Annual Conference - Penrith, NSW - <http://tinyurl.com/ofzcvw>

6-7 August - Professional Development Network School Leaders' Conference - Gold Coast, QLD - <http://tinyurl.com/qrfnoh>

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

22 August - Tasmanian Parents & Friends Association State Annual Conference - <http://tinyurl.com/lzqrpn>

31 August-6 September - Reach for the Stars - <http://tinyurl.com/l3zh3e>

2-4 September - ARACY Conference - Melbourne, VIC - <http://tinyurl.com/qligzw>

26-28 September - ACEL International Conference - Darwin, NT - <http://tinyurl.com/pgf6cq>

2-4 October - Australian Curriculum Studies Association Biennial Conference - Canberra, ACT - <http://tinyurl.com/pcslmo>

12-13 October - ACSSO National Conference - Hobart, TAS - <http://tinyurl.com/q8njl3>



[< top >](#)

ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

- Australian Education Digest : <http://tinyurl.com/d2o8zu> (weekly)
- International News Roundup : <http://tinyurl.com/cswpka> (monthly)
- Values Education : <http://tinyurl.com/dls7rv> (monthly)
- Languages Education : <http://tinyurl.com/c59eda> (monthly)
- Ensemble - Music Education : <http://tinyurl.com/dedyz4> (monthly)
- Family School Partners : <http://tinyurl.com/qvleza> (monthly)
- Public Education Voice : <http://tinyurl.com/cy7s78> (quarterly)

Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at letters@acssso.org.au. Details of products, services, events, resources or points of view are provided for information only; publication does not imply endorsement or recommendation. No warranty is provided nor liability accepted by ACSSO, its members or employees.

To unsubscribe from Australian Education Digest click here: <mailto:webmaster@acssso.org.au?subject=unsubscribeAED>

To unsubscribe from all ACSSO mailings click here: <mailto:webmaster@acssso.org.au?subject=unsubscribeALL>