



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

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NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Parents Unite

The Australian Council of State School Organisations and the Australian Parents Council offer their profound thanks and congratulations to all who participated in and attended their National Education Conference 12-13 October in Hobart.

Attendees and presenters alike were enthusiastic in their praise for the relevance of the topics covered, the range of opportunities to engage in informed discussion with key stakeholders and the overall organisation of the event, a co-production between the two peak national groups representing the interests of parents of students in public and non-government schools.

ACSSO and APC are vital instruments for informing the development of education policy and practice on a national scale. When two such organisations get together in conference, the coverage of issues and ideas rises above considerations of "public education" and "private education" to focus on the over-arching concerns of all Australian parents, students and school communities.

Materials relating to the Conference will be made available progressively in coming weeks.

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ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

Homeless Children Need Education

Australian Education Union, 15 October 2009

The Australian Education Union today called for greater government action to reduce the number of homeless children not attending school.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said with Anti-Poverty Week underway it was important to highlight the disturbing fact that one in 50 Australian children will access a homelessness support service this year.

More than 20 per cent of these will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

"With such a high rate of homelessness it is critical that support for families and children helps to keep them in schools," Mr Gavrielatos said.

"But the Federal Government's Green Paper on Homelessness shows that the majority of children aged between five and seventeen accessing a Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) are not in education.

"Along with more resources for homelessness services, we need better processes put into place to improve cooperation between schools and the agencies delivering support services."

Read more at <http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Media/MediaReleases/2009/1510.pdf>

Read more about Anti-Poverty Week at <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/>

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PM announces funding boost for needy

Rachael Brown, ABC Radio PM, 16 October 2009

RACHAEL BROWN: Mr Rudd says the Federal Government is committing \$18.5 million towards a no interest loan scheme, to allow vulnerable Australians to purchase essential household items like fridges and washing machines.

Also, there's \$14.5 million for a Brotherhood of St Laurence scheme that helps people on low incomes save for education and training purchases like computers, uniforms and books.

The Brotherhood's executive director, Tony Nicholson, explains.

TONY NICHOLSON: Particularly when children are moving from primary to secondary school and all the expenses that are associated with this. So the scheme enables the bank to match savings from disadvantaged families one for one, dollar for dollar.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2009/s2715721.htm>

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SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Schools to miss out on solar panels as program frozen

Australian Teacher Magazine, 15 October 2009

Thousands of schools that want to go green have been told the federal government has no money to help them. The government has abruptly shelved a popular program which provided up to \$50,000 to schools for solar panels, solar hot water heaters and water tanks.

Any school which had not put in an application by 3pm on Thursday (October 15) has missed out for the next eight months.

Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett put the \$480 million program on ice because it has

already used up the funding set aside for this financial year. It will reopen next financial year.

More than 2,000 schools - primary and secondary, public and private - got in before the cut-off. But another 2,500 that had registered with the scheme will have to wait.

Read more at

http://www.ozteacher.com.au/html/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=378:schools-to-miss-out-on-solar-panels&catid=20:funding

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“Sustainable design does not necessarily mean sacrificing functionality or aesthetic appeal”

Bond University building wins international sustainability award

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, has today congratulated Bond University for winning a major international Sustainability Award in London over the weekend.

Bond University's Mirvac School of Sustainable Development building was the first higher education building in Australia to receive a 6 Star Green Design Rating and reduced its emissions by 80 per cent through innovative technology and design. The Mirvac School of Sustainable Development building located on Queensland's Gold Coast, is carbon neutral, water efficient, healthy, financially sustainable and smart.

The principles of sustainable design taught at the Mirvac School are embodied in the building's structure which is made from recycled steel; and also reflected in the windows which are orientated to reduce the amount of energy needed for lighting and climate control. Students are encouraged to get to class by bicycle.

The building has built-in intelligence that aims to reduce the unnecessary use of energy. For instance, it stops occupants from turning the air-conditioning on if the windows are open.

The Mirvac School of Sustainable Development has also shown that sustainable design does not necessarily mean sacrificing functionality or aesthetic appeal.

Read more at

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091019_073951.aspx

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BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Building the Education Revolution report card released

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

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today welcomed the release of the Building the Education Revolution National Coordinator's Implementation Report, on progress in the first eight months.

The National Coordinator's Implementation Report shows that the Program is on target, with 24 382 projects approved for 9 526 schools across Australia.

A survey conducted by the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) found that 85 per cent of primary school principals strongly supported the Building the Education Revolution. This survey reflects the overwhelming feedback the Government has received from principals and school communities around the nation.

The National Coordinator's Implementation Report confirms that there have been 55 complaints out of 25 489 applications and 24 382 projects funded. This amounts to 0.22 per cent of applications and 0.23 per cent of projects funded.

Read more at

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091016_152812.aspx

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INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

\$3 million for 'Make it Count' Indigenous maths program

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 19 October 2009

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today announced funding of \$3 million for Make it Count, a numeracy project for Indigenous students.

The project will be run by the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers Incorporated and will research and develop new approaches to delivering mathematics education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Information about the most effective teaching models and approaches will be shared with the teaching industry and promoted within professional development and community engagement activities.

The Government firmly believes that all Australian students need to be proficient in the basics like numeracy to be able to fully participate in the world of work and further study.

In addition to the new National Curriculum, the Government is investing in a range of initiatives to invigorate maths education in schools and to lift specialist teaching enrolments.

Read more at

http://deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091019_155027.aspx

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RURAL & REGIONAL EDUCATION

Senate Inquiry hears Youth Allowance changes will hurt

Hon Christopher Pyne MP, Shadow Education Minister, 13/10/2009

The Senate Inquiry into the Government's flawed Youth Allowance changes heard today at its public hearings that the changes will unfairly discriminate against students in rural and regional areas - confirming concerns that the Coalition has been raising for several months, according to Shadow Education Minister Christopher Pyne.

"Thousands of students and parents are distraught over the Rudd Government's decision to make retrospective changes to Youth Allowance, meaning that over 20,000 students currently undertaking their gap year are set not to receive Youth Allowance in 2010," said Mr Pyne.

Today Universities Australia spokesman David Battersby confirmed that this will hurt country students: "Universities Australia does note that students in rural and remote areas may be disproportionately affected by some aspects of the proposed changes," he said.

Read more at <http://www.pyneonline.com.au/news/article/inquiry-hears-youth-allowance-changes-will-hurt>

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Government must release Youth Allowance modelling - Greens

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Media Release, 13th October 2009

The Government must release the economic modelling it has relied upon when formulating its changes to Youth Allowance, according to the Greens Education Spokesperson, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young.

"The Government has been more than happy to sell the winners of these reforms, but when it comes to talking about those who are going to miss out, they are reluctant to tell the whole story."

"How can the Government continue to claim its youth allowance package is budget neutral, when it says it doesn't have detailed modelling at its disposal?"

"There's no education revolution if there's no students to learn, and what we're hearing is students from rural and regional areas are going to be disproportionately hit and less kids from these areas will go to university."

Read more at <http://sarah-hanson-young.greensmps.org.au/content/media-release/government-must-release-y-a-modelling-greens>

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Funds for schools in drought areas

The Armidale Express, 16 October 2009

Armidale schools are to receive funding to help local rural families whose children attend schools in drought-affected areas with education expenses.

Under the \$17.4 million Drought Assistance for Schools program, eligible schools will receive up to \$10,000.

This consists of \$1000 per school plus a per capita allowance of \$100 for every full time equivalent student recorded in the 2008 school census.

Schools may use the funding for items such as textbooks, uniforms, subject levies, excursions and school camps, or to provide other support which is directly related to schooling.

Principals can also direct support to families most in need.

Schools can use the funding to subsidise activities for a whole class or the entire school.

Read more at <http://www.armidaleexpress.com.au/news/local/news/general/funds-for-schools-in-drought-areas/1651181.aspx?src=rss>

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

780 new university places for early childhood teachers

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 14 October 2009

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard and the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth, Kate Ellis, today announced 780 new university places in early childhood teaching.

500 new places will be available in 2010, with an initial allocation of 280 places in 2011. This builds on the 500 places provided in 2009.

Additional places for 2011 will be available for allocation at a later stage bringing the total number of additional places available to 1500 by 2011 as promised at the last election.

Read more at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood>

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SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

New Digital Products Target Needs of Autistic Children

Katie Ash, Education Week (US) 14 October 2009

Advancements in assistive technologies, as well as an increased focus on addressing the needs of students with autism, have spurred an emerging roster of new digital products designed to facilitate better communication between parents and teachers of children with autism and provide more affordable, higher-quality education to those students.

"The emergence of autism as a critical area has really exploded over the last five years," says Tracy Gray, the director of the Washington-based National Center for Technology Innovation, due in part to the growing number of students diagnosed with the condition.

"Over the same period of time, there has been an emergence of assistive-technology tools across the board. ... Developers and innovators really have taken hold of what the technology offers and built tools that are responsive to the needs of kids."

Chris Whalen is a co-founder and the president and chief science officer of TeachTown, an educational program for children with autism that includes computer lessons, non-computer activities, data-collection features, and a communication system.

Read more at <http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2009/10/21/01autistictech.h03.html>

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CYBER SAFETY

ACMA extends cybersafety education to trainee teachers

ACMA Media Release. 9 October 2009

The Australian Communications and Media Authority will extend its successful cybersafety professional development program to teachers in training with the introduction of a new program.

'This new program will equip trainee teachers with the skills they will need to manage cybersafety education and awareness issues in Australian schools today. It builds on the highly successful professional development workshops which the ACMA offers. Fifty-five thousand teachers, parents and students have attended the ACMA's Cybersmart Internet Safety Awareness presentations to date, and over 2200 teachers across Australia have also attended our workshops. These programs are in strong demand, with bookings well into next year,' said Chris Cheah, Acting Chair of the ACMA.

'Teachers-in-training also need access now to up-to-date knowledge, skills and practical advice on cybersafety as they will go on to teach core safety skills to Australian children,' said Mr Cheah. 'Topics we cover in both programs include cyberbullying, communicating safely, safe social networking, exposure to inappropriate content and e-security.'

A pilot of the program will be run at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) campuses in Strathfield, NSW and in Canberra next week. More than 650 pre-service teachers, teachers, academics, educators and industry stakeholders will attend the program, consisting of a 50-minute resource lecture and a 90-minute tutorial.

Read more at http://acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_311928 and at the Cybersmart website <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au>

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HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Research shows need to target pre-teens to prevent youth violence

Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth, Media Release, 14 October 2009

Programs to prevent youth violence need to start earlier and be sustained longer to be effective, according to a new report commissioned by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY).

The study, which was undertaken for ARACY by Murdoch Children's Research Institute, found primary school age children were engaging in a range of risk-taking behaviours that put them in danger of developing long-term social and health problems.

As many as one in five Year 6 boys admitted to having drunk alcohol in the previous month, and one in twenty in the same group had drunk more than five alcoholic drinks in a row in the previous fortnight (classified as binge drinking). The rates were lower for girls, but increased for both genders

in Year 8.

The study confirmed a link between recent alcohol consumption and violent and antisocial behaviour among students. The level of antisocial behaviour and alcohol consumption increased for both boys and girls in secondary school.

Download the report at

http://www.aracy.org.au/cmsdocuments/violent_and_antisocial_behaviours.pdf

Read more about ARACY at <http://www.aracy.org.au>

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TERTIARY EDUCATION

\$71.5 million further infrastructure boost for Australian universities

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

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today announced that twenty-one Australian universities will share in \$71.5 million to improve teaching and research facilities for students.

The projects of up to \$5 million will improve vital teaching and learning facilities and allow for the expansion of curriculum in important subject areas.

Twenty-three grants have been awarded through the Capital Development Pool (CDP) program for 2010 and 2011.

The projects are designed to provide universities with additional facilities or upgrades to existing facilities over the next two years.

Read more at

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091015_122755.aspx

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

International student growth not sustainable

Guy Healy, the Australian, October 14, 2009

AUSTRALIA cannot continue to recruit Chinese and Indian students at such unsustainable levels in the medium term without compromising education standards, the country's largest recruiter of overseas students has warned.

"We can't cope with 30 per cent growth. Single-digit quality growth in our major markets is in the sector's - and Australia's - interests," IDP Education chief executive Tony Pollock told the HES this week.

"In big markets like India or China single-digit growth is good for Australia, but for emerging markets like Latin America it could be double-digit growth."

Mr. Pollock made the comments on the eve of IDP's annual conference, which starts today in Sydney, and on the release of a survey showing Indian students still rated Australia their favoured destination on safety and access to student visas and permanent residency.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26205379-12332,00.html>

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Address to the Australian International Education Conference

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

Last year when you held your conference in Brisbane, the global recession was just starting to unfold. At the time, the world was gripped by fear about what might happen to the global economy and the economies of individual countries.

Many of you here must have felt caught in a wave of anxiety, not knowing how it would all pan out in terms of demand for the education and training you deliver.

As a government we sought to act. So in March this year, I hosted an International Education Roundtable. I wanted to know what key stakeholders thought about the way forward - what needed to be done to ensure the sector was sustainable. Also in March, I announced a range of measures to support the sector over 2009 and 2010 as part of the Study in Australia 2010 package.

When this conference met last year, we knew Australian faced growing global economic challenges but our crystal ball didn't enable us to see every challenge we would confront.

Read more at http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Speeches/Pages/Article_091015_120915.aspx

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AROUND THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ACT: Libs 'bloody-minded' on school suspensions

ABC News, Oct 14, 2009

ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr has lashed out at the Liberals after they sank a bill to give principals more power to discipline students.

Currently school principals need permission from the Education Department or the Catholic Education Office if they want to suspend a student for more than five days. The Government bill would have allowed principals to suspend students for up to 10 days without referring up.

But the Liberals wanted to go further and raise it to 20 days. When the Government would not budge they sided with the Greens and voted to block the entire bill.

The ACT Principals Association says it is disappointed the legislation has been rejected.

Spokesman Michael Battenally says the change would have given schools greater capacity to work with children and parents before the student returned to school.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/14/2713442.htm>

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NSW: State opposition claims companies gouging school stimulus funds

ABC News, Oct 14, 2009

The New South Wales opposition says construction companies could be gouging up to a quarter of the economic stimulus funding for schools in the state.

The opposition says documents show the costs of managing infrastructure projects are blowing out at a number of schools.

Its education spokesman Adrian Piccoli says schools are paying building companies as much \$250,000.

"The State Government are charging a management fee to actually manage the whole project and then the building companies are being able to charge significant fees as well," he said.

"Taxpayers will be very concerned that so much of their money, which is all borrowed money, is going into the profits and the pockets of big construction companies."

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/14/2713639.htm>

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NSW: Parents want riddance of wasted hour

Sally Foy, Bay Post, 16 October 2009

Supported by the NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens' Association, shire parents are calling for an equitable alternative to religious education.

Batemans Bay father of two Phil MacDonnell says it's not about removing religion from schools, but about fighting for education rights.

When Mr MacDonnell's son started primary school his parents decided not to enrol him in weekly scripture classes.

"Being Canadian I could not understand the idea of scripture in school," Mr MacDonnell said.

The NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens' Association's Helen Walton explained that the issue has existed in public schools for more than 100 years.

Read more at <http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/news/local/news/general/parents-want-riddance-of-wasted-hour/1651565.aspx?src=rss>

An online petition calling for the introduction of an ethics course is at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/SpecialEthicsEducation/?e>

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NSW: Heritage listing for school land Government wants to sell

Louise Hall, Sydney Morning Herald, October 16, 2009

THE National Trust has listed on its heritage register the grounds of Hurlstone Agriculture High School, 140 hectares of which the NSW Government plans to sell.

The Education Department hoped to sell all but 20 hectares of the school's land as part of a directive in the mini-budget last November to raise \$239 million through land sales.

The Education Minister, Verity Firth, is due to receive a report on the possible sale today after an inquiry led by a former president of the NSW Farmers Association, Mal Peters.

But the outcome will be delayed until after the HSC to limit disruption to students.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/heritage-listing-for-school-land-20091015-gz9t.html>

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NSW: State closes book on literacy help for rural children

Louise Hall, Sydney Morning Herald, October 17, 2009

THE only school in Australia that supports children from rural and regional areas with severe learning disorders has been shut by the NSW Government, abandoning hundreds of the state's most disadvantaged children.

Palm Avenue School, on Sydney's northern beaches, was awarded more than \$300,000 in federal stimulus funding a month before NSW health chiefs decided to sack 15 staff and terminate its highly sought-after programs.

The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service has admitted it is yet to work out how country students will gain access to the literacy and language programs that have been created by a specialist team of teachers, psychologists and speech pathologists for 35 years.

About 100 students who have been referred to Palm Avenue's unique residential program, where year 6 students live on campus for up to eight weeks, have been told there is nowhere else in NSW they can go.

A further 134 students on the outreach program will also be left without treatment until at least the middle of next year.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/national/state-closes-book-on-literacy-help-for-rural-children-20091016-h14o.html>

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NT: Union unhappy with \$2.5m education review

Emma Masters, ABC News, Oct 15, 2009

The Australian Education Union says it is time for the Northern Territory Government to stop conducting reviews and reports on education and get on with the job.

The Government is paying the Menzies School of Health Research \$2.5 million to evaluate its new Indigenous education policy.

The union's Northern Territory president, Rodney Smith, says the money could be better spent delivering services on the ground.

"I thought we'd had enough of doing reviews and we were going to get onto the job," he said.

"The Menzies School of Health is going to look at what we're doing and see that we're doing it right.

"I would have thought the Department of Education and Training would be able to do that and tell us if we're doing it right."

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/15/2715366.htm>

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QLD: Random breath tests for school dance

Australian Teacher Magazine, 15 October 2009

A Queensland school will conduct random breath tests to keep its annual school dance trouble free.

But the move has been criticised as excessive by civil libertarians.

The principal of St Edmund's College in Ipswich, Brendan Lawler, said students arriving at the dance will be chosen randomly for breath testing as a condition of entry.

There will also be random testing throughout the night to ensure alcohol is not spirited into the dance venue on October 23.

Any positive test will result in the student being refused entry and the parents being called to pick them up.

Read more at

http://www.ozteacher.com.au/html/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=377:random-breath-tests-for-school-dance&catid=1:news&Itemid=8

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SA: Court case 'puts school sport in jeopardy'

Daniel Wills, Advertiser, October 15, 2009

COMPETITIVE school sports could be in jeopardy after the High Court rejected a Government appeal over damages awarded to a girl injured while windsurfing.

The girl's family successfully sought damages from the Education Department over the accident, which occurred during a supervised school activity.

The State Government appeal was thrown out in May despite an affidavit from Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith warning "all sporting and outdoor activities conducted by the (Education) Department that contain a competitive element" would need to be reviewed.

The affidavit, dated February 27, was released by the Opposition yesterday.

Read more at http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26214050-2682,00.html?from=public_rss

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SA: Teacher education & supply taskforce established

Hon Jane Lomax-Smith MP, Education Minister, 19 October 2009

The Rann Government has set up a taskforce of university and educational leaders to ensure South Australian schools have adequate numbers of high quality teachers into the future.

The Teacher Education Taskforce will look at the preparation of new teachers, supply and demand of teachers and attracting high quality people to the profession.

Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith says the taskforce will be a key element in a longer-term teacher workforce strategy now under development.

“We have adequate numbers of teachers coming out of university to meet the demand for teaching vacancies in the short term,” Dr Lomax-Smith says. “However, the average age of the teaching workforce is increasing and we need to ensure there is a longer term strategy in place to ensure we can continue to fill jobs in public and private schools.”

Read more at <http://www.ministers.sa.gov.au/>

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TAS: \$5 million investment in computers for teachers

David Bartlett MP, Minister for Education and Skills, 17 October 2009

The State Government is to invest nearly \$5 million in replacing four year old teacher laptop computers.

The Premier and Minister for Education and Skills David Bartlett said today that the Department of Education was currently finalising the purchase and distribution arrangements with the objective that teachers will receive the replacement computers before the end of the school year.

“The same process will be used to replace four year old laptops in 2010,” he said.

“This is a difficult year for departmental budgets, yet the Department’s prudent management of central resources has enabled it to respond to the need to replace personal computers for teachers,” he said.

“When viewed alongside the additional computers in schools through the Digital Education Revolution, our schools will continue to be very well placed with access to digital technology,” he said.

Source: <http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=28142>

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TAS: Teachers reconsider adopting education changes

ABC News, 19 October 2009

Teachers at a Hobart college will decide by Wednesday whether to join Tasmania’s new post-year-10 education system next year.

The Premier and Education Minister David Bartlett has said no college will be forced to join the Tasmania Tomorrow system next year, after almost three quarters of Rosny College teachers voted not to make the switch.

Elizabeth College is the only other school scheduled to join next year and teachers have previously voted to go ahead.

Australian Education Union state president Leanne Wright says the Elizabeth College teachers will be voting again.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/19/2717963.htm>

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VIC: Minimum school leaving age to increase from January 2010

DEEDC "Parent Update", 16 October 2009

Research has shown that young people who stay in education or training longer significantly boost their career prospects and their earning capacity throughout their working lives – which is why, from January next year, the minimum school leaving age will rise from 16 to 17.

From 2010 onwards, all Victorian students will be required to complete Year 10 and remain in some form of education, training or employment until the age of 17, through an amendment to the Education and Training Reform Act.

Minister for Education Bronwyn Pike said the amendment was aimed at setting a higher bar for the community, not punishing school leavers.

"This is not a punitive approach and it supports the many programs already in place to support early school leavers," Ms Pike said.

In Victoria, students can choose from a range of academic and applied learning options, including the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

Read more at

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/participation/parentupdate/oct09/minage.htm>

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WA: More teachers available to teach Aboriginal languages

Education Minister Liz Constable, 8 October 2009

Aboriginal languages have an increased chance of being preserved with an additional nine Aboriginal educators trained to teach six different languages in public schools.

Education Minister Liz Constable today met with a group of the educators in Broome to congratulate them on their achievement.

Dr Constable said she was pleased almost 6,000 students from kindergarten to Year 11 were learning an Aboriginal language.

These nine teachers join 97 others who have completed the two-year Aboriginal languages teacher training course since its inception, enabling 25 Aboriginal languages to be taught in 79 schools across Western Australia.

Read more at <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Lists/Statements/DispForm.aspx?ID=132592>

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WA: Bunbury schools to choose respect

Education Minister Liz Constable, 20 October 2009

A highly successful initiative that has seen a significant improvement in student behaviour at Carey Park Primary School will be implemented in other schools across Bunbury.

The 'Choose Respect' initiative, which was introduced to Carey Park two years ago, uses a code of

behaviour to develop and maintain a culture of respect.

Premier Colin Barnett and Education Minister Liz Constable visited the school today to acknowledge the program's success.

Dr Constable said she was pleased the City of Bunbury would expand the program across other local schools.

Read more at <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Lists/Statements/DispForm.aspx?ID=132650>

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REMINDERS

20 October - Symposium: Building school partnerships with commerce & industry - Melbourne, VIC - <http://www.spheresofinfluence.com.au/>

23-24 October - Art Education Victoria Annual Conference - Melbourne, VIC - <http://www.aev.vic.edu.au/pd/conference/2009/index.html>

24-25 October - Asian Conference on Education - Osaka, Japan - <http://ace.iafor.org/>

9 November - Innovation in Education One-Day Conference - London, UK - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/innovation-education>

9-12 November - London International Conference on Education - London, UK - <http://www.liceducation.org/>

17 November - Forum of Australian National Schools Network - Canberra, ACT - http://www.ansn.edu.au/4th_annual_national_forum_2009_the_education_revolution_two_years_on

18-21 November - NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo - Washington DC, USA
<http://www.naeyc.org/conference/>

24-26 November - Family Relationship Services Australia National Conference - Sydney, NSW - <http://www.frsa.org.au/site/>

25-27 November - International Conference on Primary Education 2009 - Hong Kong - <http://www.ied.edu.hk/primaryed/>

24-26 March - Going Global 4 - London, UK - <http://www.britishcouncil.org/goingglobal.htm>

9-10 April - National Coalition against Bullying Conference - Melbourne, VIC - <http://www.amf.org.au/NCABConference/>

4-7 July - National Conference for Teachers of English & Literacy - Perth, WA - <http://www.englishliteracyconference.com.au/index.php?id=46&year=10>

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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/news/> (monthly)
 - Public Education Voice : <http://www.acsso.org.au/pev.htm> (quarterly)
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Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at letters@acsso.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.

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