



AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 4 Number 21, 22 June 2010

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THE SOCIAL CLASSROOM

The crowded curriculum

Pamela Medlen, ABC News, 22 June 2010

It seems nowadays that every interest group and government department is calling for their cause to be included in what has become an increasingly crowded school curriculum.

Professor of Education at Edith Cowan University, Max Angus, believes interest groups are pushing their causes on schools to solve all manner of social problems.

"The people who want these things, they're well-intentioned of course, are trying to have the school make up for what previously we expected parents and local communities to teach out of school time."

But should it be a school's responsibility to fill the gaps?

The Education Department's director general Sharyn O'Neill says teachers do try to integrate social lessons into the curriculum framework but they can't be responsible for everything.

"All of these issues must be approached also by parents, by social groups themselves, by other aspects or areas of government.

"Education plays a large role and we are very conscious of our responsibility in that but schools cannot shoulder the burden of all the challenges of society, so we are very keen to work with other groups, other individuals to ensure that young people have all of the education and learning and development that's available to them, but we certainly can't do it all.

"Teachers do a fantastic job, but they're not the only ones who have responsibility here."

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/22/2933563.htm>

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Teachers forced into parent trap

Lucy Hood, the Advertiser, 22 June 2010

TEACHERS are increasingly being expected to take on the role of de facto parents, with new programs that target "social ills" being introduced into classrooms almost every day, principals say.

Principals surveyed by EducationNow say teachers are being forced to teach topics that should be the responsibility of parents - from dog, fire and road safety to budgeting and gambling.

They say many parents expect teachers to give their children constant, individual attention.

Up to 10 students in every classroom have their own "individualised learning programs".

One principal said society in general "believes schools can solve all the problems we have".

"Increasingly we are being asked to help support or solve issues that are local and global," the principal said. "Realistically there is only so much educators can do in the time they have with students."

Read more: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/in-depth/teachers-forced-into-parent-trap/story-e6frebvu-1225882657789>

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DIGITAL LITERACY

ePortfolios

Digital Education Research Network, 17 June 2010

A very comprehensive and thorough report on ePortfolios prepared by the Australian ePortfolio Project for the Australian Teaching and Learning Council was released late in 2009.

Support for the original work was provided by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council, an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The report Australian ePortfolio Project-Stage 2: use by university students in Australia: Developing a sustainable community of practice is a rich description of eportfolio in education activity.

The report surveyed ePortfolio communities of practice globally and provided an insight into innovative uses of eportfolios for higher education students.

Read more: <http://www.dern.org/>

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Digital Learning Survey

National Film and Sound Archive, 19 June 2010

The National Film and Sound Archive is running a survey around the use of online digital cultural resources in the classroom, specifically relating to online film clips (but covers other resources as well).

Participate in survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/digital_learning

Explore NFSA's digital learning resources: <http://www.nfsa.gov.au/digitallearning/>

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Hyper Island in Australia

The Communications Council, 21 June 2010

The Communications Council is excited to announce we have teamed up with the digital institution Hyper Island to bring you the best digital has to offer.

The Hyper Island Masterclass is an intensive three day course for creative industry professionals. It focuses on enhancing efficiency within organizations and using interactive communications as a tool for ensuring high growth and long-term success.

Classes are developed in close collaboration with top agencies and brands around the world and lecturers and facilitators from Europe and Australia will oversee the Masterclass lectures and assignments.

But don't expect a traditional style Masterclass, this is learning by doing!

Sydney: Sept 17-19; Melbourne: Sept 24-26

Read more: <http://www.communicationscouncil.org.au/public/content/ViewCategory.aspx?id=906>

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Cyber technology is top of the class

Candice Keller, the Advertiser, 22 June 2010

TEACHERS are increasingly calling on students to help them grapple with advancements in technology, educators say. Children today have an assumed knowledge of computers and modern technology. This is leading to a positive role reversal in classrooms where students are demonstrating the beneficial applications of technology to teachers.

Glenunga International High School principal Wendy Johnson said technology had changed the landscape of schools considerably. "Increasingly it is showing teachers as learners, and students as teachers, which makes it a much more democratic environment," Ms Johnson said. "The focus for everyone is on learning, not power."

The impact of the rapid progression of technology is undeniable.

However, concerns have been raised about the need for support, training and development to allow schools and teachers to engage with this technology to its full potential.

A functional computer requires more than just the hardware. And it's not just computers that are taking over - it's mobile, personal technologies like smartphones, iPads, reading tablets and social networking websites too.

Read entire article: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/in-depth/cyber-technology-is-top-of-the-class/story-e6frebvu-1225882667194>

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NEW CLASSROOM RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

Learning from one another: Bringing Muslim perspectives into Australian Schools

Eeqbal Hassim & Jennet Cole-Adams, National Centre for Excellence for Islamic Studies

This new resource for primary and secondary teachers offers practical advice and strategies about meeting the needs of Muslim students, and incorporating Islam and Muslim related content into the curriculum.

It contains 116 full colour pages packed with background material, learning sequences and worksheets you can photocopy.

The Australian government – and the proposed national curriculum – pose the challenge to make Australia the most Asia-literate country on earth – and our nearest neighbour Indonesia includes the greatest concentration of Muslim-faith peoples on the planet.

Within Australia – the most successful multi-cultural, multilingual and multi-faith country on earth – we live and work with people of Muslim faith with cultural and historical links to centuries of rich traditions that embody significant elements of world history and society.

Whether your school has one or many Muslim students, this resource will provide avenues for you to introduce Islam and Muslim related content in your classrooms – and facilitate a whole-school approach to supporting healthy relationships and engagement with Muslim students, parents and communities and develop an appreciation of Muslim history and cultures in Australia.

\$44.00 plus \$8.00 postage from Australian Curriculum Studies Association

Read more and order: <http://www.acsa.edu.au/pages/page502.asp>

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Philosophy with young children - a classroom handbook

Philip Cam, Liz Fynes-Clinton, Kathlyn Harrison, Lynne Hinton, Rosie Scholl, Simon Vaseo

Philosophy with Young Children - a classroom handbook is a handbook for teachers of early primary. The handbook is designed to assist teachers in the teaching of philosophy, and in developing skills of inquiry and reasoning in their students, utilising story books.

The handbook focuses on twelve stories and includes activities relating to each story. For each story the handbook details the area of philosophy emphasised, philosophical themes to be covered, and activities based on eliciting good questions, exploring concepts and developing reasoning skills.

To assist teachers with planning and curriculum design, two indexes are also included in the handbook - one according to themes and one according to skills. This practical handbook will assist teachers to explore philosophy in the classroom with their students - enabling students to consider issues, to ask questions, to discuss ideas and to gain further insights into their lives, and the lives of others.

\$39.95 plus \$8.00 postage from Australian Curriculum Studies Association

Read more and order: <http://www.acsa.edu.au/pages/page32.asp>

The Australian Curriculum Studies Association works to support educators so that all students have access to a meaningful, relevant and engaging curriculum. ACSA provides national advocacy and leadership in curriculum. It is committed to curriculum reform informed by the principles of social justice and equity and respect for the democratic rights of all. <http://www.acsa.edu.au/>

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RURAL & REGIONAL EDUCATION

Coalition's \$1 billion regional education fund

Warren Truss, Leader of The Nationals, 19 June 2010

A new Coalition government will create a \$1 billion Regional Education Fund, to be used to bridge the education gap and address the issues which lead to under-achievement in the regions.

This new funding is above and beyond existing money provided for regional education and is a very positive step for students and their families.

"No matter where you live, you or your children should be able to access the best possible education," the Leader of The Nationals, Warren Truss, told The Nationals' 90th Anniversary Federal Conference today.

"This Fund will be used to invest in 21st century education and communication tools to improve learning opportunities in the regions, and programs like encouraging quality teachers to move and stay in regional and remote schools.

Read more: [http://www.liberal.org.au/Latest-News/2010/06/19/Truss-announces-\\$1billion-regional-education-fund.aspx](http://www.liberal.org.au/Latest-News/2010/06/19/Truss-announces-$1billion-regional-education-fund.aspx)

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Nationals propose \$1b regional education fund

ABC News, 19 June 2010

The Nationals have used their 2010 Federal Conference to announce the Opposition's plan for a \$1 billion regional education fund.

Nationals leader Warren Truss told the conference in Canberra that the fund would come from within the existing budget and aim to improve the quality of education services in regional areas.

The Nationals also proposed doubling the baby bonus for stay at home mothers, though Mr Truss says this is not coalition policy and may not be affordable for some time.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/19/2931591.htm?section=justin>

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AUDIO WEB RESOURCES

EdPod

Radio National, 24 June 2010

A pilot program teaching ethics in ten New South Wales public schools is currently underway.

It has sparked strong protest from church leaders, because the ethics classes are being run as a 'complement' to Special Religious Education, which is enshrined in NSW law and education tradition.

Radio National's Gary Bryson recently visited a classroom where the ethics classes are being taught.

And a very hopeful story about indigenous education.

The Clontarf Foundation uses football to encourage young Indigenous students to re-engage with education.

There's now more than 2,000 Indigenous boys enrolled in 36 schools in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Victoria and the program is growing.

Richard Aedy speaks to CEO of the Clontarf Foundation, Gerard Neesham.

Listen online (from 24 June): <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/edpod/>

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DISABILITY & EDUCATION

Special needs school wins brief reprieve

Louise Hall, Sydney Morning Herald

THE only school in Australia that supports children from rural and remote areas with severe learning disorders has won another reprieve and will continue its specialised residential program until the end of the year.

The surprise announcement by the Minister for Education, Verity Firth, yesterday means dozens more children with complex reading difficulties will benefit from the literacy and language programs run by the Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School.

The reinstatement of the program in which year 6 students live on campus with a team of teachers, psychologists and speech pathologists is a win for the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, which have been lobbying Ms Firth and the Premier, Kristina Keneally.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/special-needs-school-wins-brief-reprieve-20100615-ydbh.html>

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A school's closure pushes Braille to the margins

Natalie Craig, The Age, 20 June 2010

Rebecca Maxwell cannot imagine life without Braille. She lost her sight to meningitis as a baby, and at five went to a blind school in Adelaide where she learnt to read with her fingers.

By six, the patterns of raised dots transformed in her mind into letters and words.

By seven she could read short stories, and, some 60 years later, she is a published author and poet. "It is how I think, how I express myself, how I go about my daily life," Ms Maxwell said.

But to her horror, specialist schools, such as the one she attended, no longer exist in Victoria.

She fears Braille literacy will decline as a consequence. "You can't learn Braille unless you are surrounded by it," she said. "The sighted child has print everywhere ... it's impossible to learn to read properly unless you are immersed."

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/a-schools-closure-pushes-braille-to-the-margins-20100619-yo2o.html>

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VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

John Dawkins to head VET National Quality Council

The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 17 June, 2010

Minister for Education Julia Gillard today announced the appointment of the Hon John Dawkins AO as the Chair of the National Quality Council, which oversees Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector.

The National Quality Council is tasked with ensuring all VET students receive a quality education that will help them secure a good job and help this nation grow smarter, stronger and fairer.

Ms Gillard said Mr Dawkins was well qualified to chair this important council having served as a senior minister from 1983 to 1994 in the roles of Finance Minister; Trade Minister; Employment, Education and Training Minister; and finally, Treasurer.

In 1988 Mr Dawkins chaired a ministerial conference on Education and the Economy which repositioned OECD perspectives on education and training and in 1993 Mr Dawkins was Chairman of the OECD Ministerial Council.

Since 1994 Mr Dawkins has worked with the World Bank, UNESCO and a number of universities and state and foreign governments on education and training reform issues.

Read more: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_100617_172853.aspx

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AROUND THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ACT: School closures should be harder: Greens

ABC News, 21 June 2010

An ACT Greens bill which aims to make it more difficult for the government to close a school will be debated in the ACT Legislative Assembly this week .

Greens leader Meredith Hunter says the bill would require the government to take several steps, including a comprehensive consultation process, before a school could be shut.

The proposal is a response to the government's closure of around 20 schools in 2006.

Ms Hunter says the plan is not to stop the government shutting schools, but to make the process more rigorous.

"It certainly puts in place quite a detailed process that they have to go through and engage with school communities along the way," she said.

"And this will mean that evidence has to be clearly shown that a closure or an amalgamation is in the best interests of the school community and the broader community."

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/21/2932246.htm>

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ACT: Quality in education still the key for parents

Andrew Barr MLA, 22 June 2010

The 2009 School Movement Survey released today shows ACT Labor's drive to ensure the ACT has the best teachers in public school classrooms is in line with what parents and carers want.

The annual survey of over 1,000 parents and carers indicated they moved their child from an ACT public school because of quality of education, personal reasons, school culture, location of the school and peer relationships.

Despite the fact ACT public schools have recorded growth in the number of enrolments for the second consecutive year in a decade, Minister for Education and Training Andrew Barr said ensuring the best teachers stay in ACT public school classrooms is his top priority.

"The survey shows yet again that ACT parents and carers value having their child taught by great teachers at great schools" he said. "It's the top priority for ACT families and the top priority for me.

"That's why I will give principals more power to decide who works in their school and to ensure they can attract and keep the best teachers by offering them \$100,000 salaries and faster progression based on performance."

Read more: <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9654>

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NSW school system failed bullied teen: coroner

ABC News, Jun 17, 2010

A coroner has called on the the New South Wales Department of Education to revise its policy on bullying, following the suicide of a 14-year-old boy.

Alex Wildman died after years of bullying at schools in Sydney and on the state's north coast and on the internet. The teenager was found dead in his Lismore home in July of 2008.

Coroner Malcolm MacPherson says large schools should have more counsellors, a dedicated email or text line to report bullying and clearer guidelines on when schools report threats or incidents to police.

He told the inquest the current policy document is more than 400 pages long and said it should be simplified.

The Coroner said there is no doubt that the education department's policies failed in the teenager's case.

The lawyer representing the dead boy's family, Vince Boss, says there are laws to prevent cyber bullying but they were not enforced. "One of the issues that comes up is, when do police get involved in these matters?" he said.

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/17/2929677.htm>

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NSW: Schools not satisfied with scheme, principals say

Sean Rubinsztein-Dunlop, ABC News, 19 June 2010

Principals and teachers have rejected a claim by the chief investigator into the Federal Government's schools building program that most schools are satisfied with the scheme.

Principals have told a New South Wales parliamentary inquiry they have been forced by the state's Education Department to accept buildings they do not need.

Grant Heaton is the headmaster of Hastings Primary School at Port Macquarie.

"If we had been given the management of those vast sums of money we would have achieved what the government wanted - an education revolution," he said.

The Public Schools Principals Forum has found more than 50 per cent of headmasters are dissatisfied with the scheme.

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/19/2931384.htm>

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NSW: BER payments suspended after 'shoddy work' report

ABC News, 22 June 2010

The New South Wales Government has stopped payments to a building contractor over concerns about the quality of work at a school under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

A canteen was built at Tottenham Central School in central western New South Wales. However, the Education Minister Verity Firth says demolition work costing \$23,000 was not undertaken. Further explanation is also being sought about a \$47,000 charge for preliminary work.

Ms Firth says she has ordered the suspension of payments worth thousands of dollars following a report into the project.

"It showed evidence of several examples of shoddy workmanship and defects at Tottenham," she said. "I've ordered the BER office to withhold payments to the contractor and also to withhold payments to the managing contractor.

"The managing contractor has been ordered to make sure that the defects are fixed at no extra cost."

However, the local P and C President, Rick Bennett, has questioned the effectiveness of such a move.

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/22/2933451.htm>

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NT: No value for money in school building scheme - CLP

Rick Hind, ABC News, 16 June 2010

The Northern Territory Opposition says there is no incentive for schools to get value for money under the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution scheme.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills has told estimates hearings that each school has been given a set amount of money under the scheme, but cannot spend it on improving education results, only on buildings.

He says schools that blow their budgets are topped up with money from schools that come in under budget.

"If a school spends less than its allocation it is taken from and given to a school that spends more," he said.

"Where is the incentive in that?"

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/16/2928728.htm>

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NT: School buildings cost twice that of fast food outlet

Rick Hind, 16 June 2010

The Northern Territory Government has defended building works at a primary school in Darwin that cost more than twice as much as a nearby fast food restaurant.

The Australian newspaper is reporting that a McDonald's restaurant in Stuart Park cost \$1 million to build last year.

It reports that a school hall extension, a canteen and a classroom block at Larrakeyah Primary School cost about \$2.5 million under the Building the Education Revolution program.

But Education Minister Chris Burns says the school is getting much more than that. "I believe we're getting value for our \$2.5 million."

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/16/2928806.htm>

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QLD: Five regional schools under review

Megan Lewis, ABC News, 22 June 2010

The Education Department says it is reviewing five regional schools in central Queensland to decide if they will remain open.

Acting deputy director-general Graham Atkins says there is a consultation process for 15 schools across Queensland, including Goovigen State School near Rockhampton. He says that school was identified for review because just 17 students are enrolled.

Mr. Atkins says they will work closely with the communities until recommendations are made in September.

"We have a long established annual process to determine whether we're providing the best educational opportunities for our kids that we can do," he said. "But obviously a review [is needed] to determine whether their future is sustainable."

Read entire article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/22/2933332.htm>

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QLD: Anti-bullying lessons for Cairns' Catholic schools

Stephanie Harrington, The Cairns Post, June 16, 2010

Amid growing concerns about increasing schoolyard bullying in Australia, Cairns will be only the second Catholic diocese in the nation to "bully proof" their students through relationship education and emotional learning.

"You can get straight As, but fail in life," Catholic Education Services Cairns Diocese officer Kerry Bird said yesterday.

"It's as important as teaching religious education or maths or English."

Workshops will focus on emotional, physical and cyber-bullying, how to confront the issue, the role of parents, and the support services that are available.

Ms Bird said social and emotional learning, which will be taught across the curriculum, would ensure the well-being of students.

She said the initiative should stop students from becoming disengaged from school and prevent bullying.

Read more: http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2010/06/16/114125_local-news.html

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SA: Fraud charges dropped against Adelaide Rabbi

Jordanna Schriever, The Advertiser, June 22, 2010

MULTIPLE fraud charges have been dropped against an Adelaide Rabbi accused of falsifying accounts to create a Jewish school.

In the Adelaide Magistrates Court today, prosecutors tendered no evidence for each of the 39 counts of dishonestly dealing with documents.

Police had said there was no reasonable prospect of a conviction.

Previously, they had alleged Rabbi Yosef Yitzchock Engel, 41, and his wife, Chana Engel, 39, of Glenunga, falsified accounts in order to create a Jewish education facility called the Spirit of David School.

It was alleged the pair listed a number of students as undertaking religious studies at the school in order to obtain \$50,000 in grants from the State and Federal Governments.

Prosecutors had claimed the Spirit of David School did not exist and that more than half of those students listed were in no way connected to the couple.

Read more: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/fraud-charges-dropped-against-adelaide-rabbi-yosef-yitzchock-engel/story-e6frea6u-1225882825411>

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TAS: Minister backs more autism education funding

ABC News, Jun 15, 2010

Funding for the Launceston based A-Team, for children with Aspergers syndrome, was due to run out in two weeks.

An independent report on the A-Team's 26 students has recommended that the program continue and be expanded to other areas.

Education Minister Lin Thorp has told parliament the program will be given ongoing funding from the distance education budget.

'The evaluation found that the A-Team had many benefits for those students studying with distance education Tasmania, as well as those who had high risk in regular schools, allowing students better social interaction, problem solving opportunities and bringing together parents," she said.

Lynnette Knox, whose daughter is in the program says it should be available to all Tasmanian children with autism.

"All the experts say its so hard to find programs that work for these kids and this has been a great one that was initially started be the current Government and so not only should they be expanding it across the state but they should be promoting it nationally," she said.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/15/2927612.htm>

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TAS: Hobart schools ecology centre an Australian first

ABC News, Jun 18, 2010

Australia's first science and ecology learning centre is to be built in Hobart. The \$5 million centre, to be completed by the middle of next year, will provide hands-on education for Tasmanian students.

Greening Australia's Rob Gell says the centre will teach ecology and other specialised sciences to students from kindergarten through to Grade 12. He says the Mount Nelson site will be an ideal learning environment.

"Not only will it be just a nice place to be educated, but in fact you can walk outside the door and see the things you're being taught about."

Jonathon Duddles, of Greening Tasmania, says his organisation has joined forces with the State Government and other organisations to ensure all Tasmanian students have access to the centre.

"We wanted to capture all schools in Tasmania, and so to capture all the schools in Tasmania we needed the independents and the Catholic education sector, and the state government schools."

The six-star green building will also be home to the education branch of the CSIRO's Science Discovery Centre

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/18/2931210.htm>

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TAS: Libs warn over education funding gap

ABC News, 18 June 2010

The State Opposition says schools will suffer because of a big funding cut for the Department of Education in yesterday's state budget.

The agency has been allocated \$23 million less for next financial year.

The Shadow Treasurer Peter Gutwein says the department will struggle to pay wages and schools will suffer.

"We've got the worst retention rates in the country, we know that our national results don't stack up," he said.

"This is not the time to be placing recurrent funding for education under pressure and the Government needs to explain why they're going to be asking this Parliament to vote for a budget that provides education with less recurrent spending in the coming year that what they've received this current year."

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/18/2930847.htm>

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TAS: Autistic support group seeks funding assurances

ABC News, Jun 19, 2010

A support group for autistic children in northern Tasmania says the state government failed to provide guaranteed ongoing funding in this week's budget.

The government has allocated \$85,000 to the 'A Team' in the budget, and has promised continued funding for the program will be provided through the Department of Education.

But the Education Minister Lin Thorp has not specified how much money will be allocated from the education budget for the program, or if the budget will be expanded.

Kristen Desmond from the 'A Team' says the funding that has been allocated, will run out within a year.

"It is a great program, it offers benefits for the entire community as well as the students," she said. "The government has accepted the recommendations of the program our concern is that they haven't put the funding to match that acceptance of how good the program is," Ms Desmond said.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/19/2931432.htm>

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VIC: Rudd Labor invests in Victoria's Students and Researchers

The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education; Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, 18 June, 2010

Five Victorian education institutions have successfully secured support from the Rudd Labor Government's Education Investment Fund.

Minister for Education, Julia Gillard and Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr today said the Rudd Government was investing in cutting-edge facilities to make sure future Victorians were prepared for careers at the forefront of innovation and research.

This investment in Victoria's universities and TAFEs will help make our nation smarter, fairer and more prosperous for generations to come.

The projects are:

- A new Green Chemical Futures facility at Monash University
- A building and construction training centre at Victoria University's Sunshine campus
- A new technology hub at Box Hill TAFE to teach graduates how to incorporate green skills into trade professions
- A new Advanced Manufacturing Centre at Swinburne Uni of Technology to improve tertiary education pathways in the manufacturing and engineering fields
- A world-first Australian Future Fibres Research and Innovation Centre (AFFRIC) at Deakin University

Read more: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_100618_141054.aspx

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WA: Pay increases granted for school support workers

Education Minister Liz Constable, 11 June 2010

The Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) today awarded pay increases to school support workers, bringing to an end the long-running pay dispute.

The commission has awarded Government-employed education assistants an 11 per cent increase over three years and school cleaners and gardeners an 8.75 per cent increase over three years, taking into account the specific circumstances that apply to each of the groups.

Commerce Minister Bill Marmion and Education Minister Liz Constable welcomed the resolution of the pay claim for school support workers, which had required arbitration by the WAIRC.

"We recognise the significant contribution education assistants, cleaners and gardeners make in the running and presentation of our schools and we are pleased the commission has reflected this in their decision," Dr Constable said.

Read more: <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Lists/Statements/DispForm.aspx?ID=133647>

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Going Global 2011

11-12 March 2011, Hong Kong

World education: the new powerhouse

As city and nation states battle to emerge from world recession, keen to define their position in a new order global knowledge economy, higher and tertiary education is being propelled to centre stage.

Education is under huge pressure from world governments to drive economic growth and play a key role in securing their global position. In rapidly developing global markets, governments perceive that innovation and economic growth will be generated from growing global networks of researchers, students and institutions.

But what challenge does this present to the traditional roles of universities and colleges? How might this change the purpose of higher and tertiary education? Who are the new players and partners - governments, business, academics, and students? What is the relationship between them and how is this shifting expectations, roles, responsibilities and contributions?

Read more: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/goingglocal-gg5-general-information.htm>

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REMINDERS

23-25 June - International Conference on New Horizons in Education - Famagusta, Cyprus - <http://www.int-e.net/index.php>

30 June - Stronger Smarter Approaches to Indigenous Education - Brisbane, QLD - https://fileshare.qut.edu.au/public/ruvic/Seminar_30_June_2010_images.pdf

2 July - Victorian Mathematics and Statistics Students' Conference - Melbourne, VIC - <http://www.2010vmssc.ms.unimelb.edu.au/>

2-3 July - State Conference of Modern Language Teachers Association of Queensland - Brisbane, QLD - <http://mltag.asn.au/mod/resource/view.php?id=27>

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

4-7 July - Australian Science Teachers Association Annual Conference - Sydney, NSW - <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=1a4004e5-1cf4-4df0-931f-94d23111a400>

5-7 July - HTAA National History Conference - North Sydney, NSW - <http://www.historyteacher.org.au/conference.htm>

6-9 July - 17th International Conference on Learning - Hong Kong - <http://thelearner.com/Conference-2010/>

7-9 July - Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference - Melbourne, VIC - <http://www.aifs.gov.au/conference>

7-9 July - Conference of Association of Women Educators - Sydney, NSW - http://www.awe.asn.au/documents/AWE_WAVE_2010_conference_brochure_&_registration_updated-2010-05-26.pdf

7-10 July - Redefining TESOL for the 21st Century - Gold Coast, QLD - <http://www.astmanagement.com.au/ACTA10/Default.htm>

21-24 July - Second Paris International Conference on Education, Economy & Society - Paris, France - <http://education-conferences.org/default.aspx>

29-31 July - International Conference on Teacher Education - Quezon City, Philippines - <http://www.ictedphilippines.org/>

4-5 August - Isolated Children's Parents Association Conference - Fremantle, WA - <http://www.icpa.com.au/Conference.asp>

12-14 August - National Interactive Teaching and Learning Conference - Gold Coast, QLD - <http://www.iwb.net.au/conferences/australian10/>

14-22 August - National Science Week - <http://www.scienceweek.gov.au/Pages/index.aspx>

15-17 August - ACER Research Conference - Melbourne, VIC - http://www.acer.edu.au/research_conferences/

19-27 August - International Conference of Mathematicians - Hyderabad, India - <http://www.icm2010.org.in/>

25-27 August - European Conference on Educational Research - Helsinki, Finland - <http://www.helsinki.fi/ecer2010/index.html>

26-27 August - Annual School Leaders' Conference - Gold Coast, QLD - <http://www.griffith.edu.au/pdn-leadership-conference-2010>

3-4 September - Future Directions in Literacy Conference - Sydney, NSW - http://sydney.edu.au/education_social_work/professional_learning/teachers/2010/future_directions_literacy.shtml

6 September - International Middle Years of Schooling Conference - Adelaide, SA - <http://sapmea.asn.au/conventions/middleschool2010/>

6-8 September - London International Conference on Education - London, UK - <http://www.liceducation.org/>

15-17 September - SPERA Conference, University of Sunshine Coast, Queensland - http://www.spera.asn.au/articles.php?req=list&root_id=13&sub_id=65

22 September - Language and Culture and Social Connectedness in Our Diverse Landscape Symposium - Toowoomba, QLD - <http://www.usq.edu.au/lcdl>

27-30 September - National Australian Association for Environmental Education Conference - Canberra, ACT - <https://www.conferenceco.com.au/aaee>

27-30 September - Australian Mathematical Society 54th Meeting - Brisbane, QLD - <http://www.smp.uq.edu.au/austms2010/>

27 September-1 October - International Association of School Librarianship Conference - Brisbane QLD - <http://www.iasl-online.org/events/conf/2010/>

October - International School Library Month - <http://www.iasl-online.org/events/ism/>

12-15 October - EDGE 2010: e-Learning: The horizon and beyond - Toronto, Canada - <http://www.mun.ca/edge2010/>

13 November - Hands on Literacy Conference - Singapore - <http://www.handsonlit.com/>

2-5 December - Second Annual Asian Conference on Education - Osaka, Japan - <http://ace.iafor.org/>

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- Australian Education Digest : <http://www.acsso.org.au/australian-education-digest/> (weekly)
- International News Roundup : <http://www.acsso.org.au/roundup/> (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/public-education-voice> (quarterly)

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