

MEDIA RELEASE

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Big Take-Up of Summer Schools Impresses Parents

The national public schools parent body are impressed by the large number of teachers who have applied for places at the Federal Government's Summer Schools training this coming January.

Nearly three thousand teachers have applied for the 1000 available places in the five areas of literacy and numeracy, English, maths, science and Australian history.

The President of ACSSO, Jenny Branch, said the response was a very good indication that teachers were willing to give up time to improve their professional development.

She said a key part of the programme was the requirement that the selected teachers should then return to their own schools to promote their learnings with other teachers not only in their schools but to bring their expertise into their subject associations and other colleagues in their states.

She congratulated the Minister Julie Bishop for driving the Summer School proposal.

"This system is not just about recognizing and rewarding good teachers, it's also about spreading best practice amongst other teachers." Ms Branch said.

Ms. Branch said there are two key elements that help to determine good education systems. One is the quality and morale of teachers and the other is the relationship or partnership between parents and the school.

"This is the reason why ACSSO accepted the Minister's invitation to sit on the five course advisory committees." She said.

Ms Branch also described the Summer Schools programme as a major step forward.

"We will work with the Department of Education Science and Training and the course providers so that we continually improve the type of training that teachers so obviously want." Ms Branch said.

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