

A message from ACSSO Chair Sharron Healy



Parents step up, again.

What a month it has been! Our communities in New South Wales have been hard hit by the Coronavirus, forcing millions of people into learning and working from home, or worse, temporarily out of employment. And now Victoria has been put back into another circuit breaker lockdown. We wish everyone in these states all the best – we know it's hard but necessary.

I'd like to acknowledge the amazing job that parents and carers are doing in those states, supporting their children and young people to continue their education as best they can. Often while working from home themselves. Their support goes a long way to help the great teachers, aides, staff and leaders in our schools deliver a remote curriculum.

We mustn't forget the wonderful job our early educators are continuing to do in early learning and childcare centres. They're frontline workers, too, and don't receive anywhere near enough recognition for their work during the pandemic.

Sustaining our work for you

Our work has not slowed at all; even during lockdown our CEO and staff are churning out more work than ever. We have this month completed submissions to the [Discussion Paper Development of a Sample Learner Profile; the Australian Curriculum Review Consultation](#); and the Quality Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Review. This alongside the regular meetings, and also a meeting with the Shadow Minister for Education, Tanya Plibersek MP, and compiling the results of our latest national family's survey. You can find copies of all our submissions on our website, www.acsso.org.au.

Connecting with you, no matter what

Like most businesses, we are having to switch from face to face meetings to virtual platforms at short notice. Disappointingly we will be online only now at the 50th Isolated Children's Parents' Association conference at the end of the month. We wish them all the very best for their event.

We will also hold our board meeting virtually next month. But at this stage we are going ahead with planning our national conference, which will be held on 29-30 October at Mantra Legends on the Gold Coast. As I said in the last newsletter, because of the unpredictability of Covid-19, and the closures it brings, we will offer the option of joining our conference and (member) roundtable in October remotely. More details will be provided as they are finalised.

Staff updates

The end of financial year saw our Admin Officer, Bec Ashford-Wykes, leave us to commence a position in her family's business. Bec has been an outstanding support for our CEO and the Board, and we wish her every success in her new venture. We warmly welcome Donna Learson to the role, and acknowledge how easily she has fitted in, despite being forced to work remotely so soon into her employment.

Although they will think it unnecessary, I would like to highlight the outstanding work our CEO, Dianne Giblin, and our Project Officer, Peter Garrigan, have completed under some very trying circumstances over the last few months. They both go above and beyond, and we thank them sincerely for their dedication to ACSSO and the public-school children and families of Australia.

Wellbeing matters most

Perhaps the most important thing to remember during this time is that kids will catch up with their learning, so looking after their, and your own, wellbeing should be your number one priority.

Take care.

Sharron Healy

Chair

Australian Council of State School Organisations

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