

A message from ACSSO Chair Sharron Healy



Refresh, regroup, return

As Term 1 draws to a close, with some already on a break and others starting today, we see many things have still not returned in full. Just when we thought schooling was getting back to a new normal, there have been large disruptions in schools because of natural disasters or the pandemic.

NSW in particular is dealing with many cases of the new Omicron variant in both its teacher and student populations. For some schools this has meant having to ask families to revert to learning from home until there are enough teachers available to run classes again. Hopefully the upcoming end of term break will afford everyone the chance to refresh, regroup, and start Term 2 on a better note.

FEDERAL ELECTION AND SURVEY

With an impending Federal election, we would like to know what you would ask the major political parties about their education policies, and what your expectations are of the next Federal Government. Is it a focus on mental health and wellbeing? An equitable funding model? More individualised learning options? Or something completely different?

This week ACSSO launched a brief survey to see what the major concerns are for families and school staff. [Take our survey](#) or email us your thoughts.

Also as part of our pre-election strategy, ACSSO will be hosting a series of webinars with the major players in the federal Education arena. Full details will be available soon on our [website](#).

NAPLAN

You would all be aware NAPLAN results were released last month, with some interesting insights into how students learnt and progressed during the pandemic.

With health and wellbeing of students being more important than formal learning during this time, the results are perhaps less important than usual, but can still be used to inform learning and support requirements.

Changes to the way NAPLAN results are reported on My School, which have just been updated for the first time in two years, make it easier for parents to understand the progress students and schools have made. It was also announced that NAPLAN is moving to Term 1 from next year. For further information [click here](#).

CHECK IN WEEK

Did your school participate in [National Check-In Week](#)? We have been working closely with the fabulous people at Life Skills Group to promote their emotional wellbeing resource which, in just 2-3 minutes a day, can provide valuable insight for teachers, families and students themselves on how they are really feeling. The online tool focuses on helping children understand their moods and emotions and provides valuable resources for teachers and parents to help get them into a better space, when needed. It also provides ongoing data which teachers will find invaluable in assisting students to be their best.

Check-In Week is becoming 'Check-in Now' - Check out the Check-In [video](#) below this message!

INAUGURAL SUSAN RYAN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

Entry to ACSSO's inaugural Susan Ryan Family Engagement Awards opens at the end of this month, with category winners to be announced in September. All finalists will be invited to attend our 75th Anniversary Conference on 5th November, 2022 in Canberra to be presented with their awards and for the announcement of the overall winner. Keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for all the details on how to enter the Susan Ryan Awards, and the conference program.

ACSSO 75TH BIRTHDAY AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ACSSO's 75th Anniversary National Conference will be held in Canberra at the Vibe Hotel. We expect this conference to offer an online presence that opens attendance to as wide an audience as possible. The program is coming together nicely, with a myriad of speakers ready to present the latest in education happenings in Australia, and from around the world. At the beginning of term 2 we will be calling for abstracts from practitioners and schools to present their stories of Family Engagement. We hope you mark this on your calendar as an opportunity to celebrate a significant milestone of parent voice in the National Arena as well as further exploring the importance of Family Engagement

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

For beginning teachers and those who may like to make a mark in Family Engagement at your school, ACSSO, in collaboration with Together For Humanity offer a FREE online professional development course "Introduction to Family Engagement". This course is aligned to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and equates to four hours of professional learning. The course can be found on openlearning.com by [clicking this link](#).

FILMPOND PARTNERSHIP

Have you made your Filmpond video yet?

Research tells us that effective communication between home and school is a key contributor to successful family engagement. Whilst email and newsletters have been great communication tools, information conveyed in video is more engaging and leads to higher retention rates.

ACSSO has partnered with Filmpond to help schools easily plan and create films to support family engagement. Filmpond supports school communities to share stories by partnering them with graduates from Australian film schools. Schools can plan and create films for free or elect to have them professionally edited at low cost.

We have created an initial suite of easy to use Templates to share stories on topics including:

- [Regular Updates for Parents](#),
- [Your Local Parents Association](#),
- [Transition to High School](#),
- [A Day in the Life of Your Classroom](#).

and we are continuing to add more options.

To find out more and get started, visit the ACSSO-Filmpond landing page:
blog.filmpond.com/2022/01/17/acsso-filmpond-partnership/

Please enjoy the term break and we look forward to sharing more with you in Term 2

Sharron Healy

Chair

Australian Council of State School Organisations

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