



A message from our CEO Dianne Giblin, AM

Changing times for senior students

It's term break time again and for our Year 12 students, it's the end of formal classes as they break to prepare for their final set of examinations.

Many families have celebrated graduations for their Year 12s this week, and may now be dreading the pre-exam stress to come. We wish families and in particular, our young people, all the best during this part of the education journey.

Senior secondary education

What senior secondary education looks like and the relevance of the skills and competencies taught are for the world of further education and work has been an ongoing conversation for decades – I remember similar discussions around the time I did *my* Year 12 exams.

With more young people completing senior schooling than ever before, it is even more vital that we ensure those final years are delivering what they need.

New senior years review

Under National Schools Reform Agreements with states and territories, the Australian Government has formed an expert panel to oversee the [Review into Senior Secondary Education](#). The panel, chaired by [Professor Peter Shergold AC](#), will provide advice to the Education Council of the skills and knowledge needed for the world beyond school.

[Consultations will be held across Australia](#) until November and submissions are now open. A final report is due to the Education Council in June 2020. The panel is

keen to hear from teachers, parents, industry , employers, vocational and higher education sectors and most importantly young people.

You can find a discussion paper about the Review of Senior Secondary Pathways and details on how to join the discussion, [here](#).

Are they ready?

Beyond school the future workplace will bring new experiences and expectations.

Children starting preschool in 2020 will engage in a very different world to the one we know. They will work in jobs that are yet to be created, work different hours, use technology that has not yet been invented and face social, economic and environmental challenges that are yet to be anticipated.

[Future Ready](#) is Australia's National Career Education Strategy that supports schools in providing high-quality career education experiences for all students. Read more about the current campaign below.

Transition challenges

At the other end of the school education continuum, families and early childhood services are preparing for preschoolers start school.

Many schools across the nation are already well underway with their transition to school programs. It's such an exciting and sometimes emotional time for families and young people as they move to the next step of their learning journey.

Transitions can be challenging, no matter how old we are. Be it from preschool to school, primary school to secondary school, or school to work or further education, we can all use some support as the changes become real.

Family engagement is key

Family engagement is crucial during these times. I recently attended the launch of [Gearing up for Parent Engagement in Student Learning](#). This program releases a new series of school toolkits developed for families and schools, which help make the transition into primary and secondary school a smooth and exciting experience for children and young people.

The toolkits are freely available – ACSSO congratulates Catholic School Parents Australia on this the development of this resource.

Scroll down, too, for ACSSO's latest infographic which helps navigate support for students in exam times.

Smooth driving ahead

Our five-year partnership with Ford Australia has seen many young Australians attend its Driving Skills for Life Program. The action begins again this weekend in Geelong, Victoria.

Please check out the venues and [register](#) your young drivers in this FREE advanced driving program.

Vacation breaks are over very quickly – take the time to recharge – the busyness of term 4 and the craziness of the silly season are almost upon us. Enjoy Term 4!

Take care,

Dianne Giblin, CEO

Australian Council of State School Organisations