

From The Chair

By now everyone will obviously be in full swing as the new school year is well advanced. I have been reading with interest of the issues that are surfacing in the various jurisdictions including the perennial ones of the cost of schooling in the public sector, including uniforms, requisites and school excursions. My special thoughts are with parents in Tasmania and the bushfire issue and especially with those in the Townsville area of North Queensland where parents have been struggling to cope with unprecedented flooding and the significant closure of large numbers of schools over an extended period. Thankfully, the Queensland Education Department has been quick to provide a coordinated response, and P&CS across the state are also coming to the assistance of parents and schools in Townsville with magnificent offers of support.

The constitution of ACSO provides for the appointment of three external directors. It is important that the board of a company such as ours, has a full complement of talent if it is to provide quality of service to its members. We have therefore advertised widely, and we have been overwhelmed with the quantity and quality of applicants from across the nation. We will advise the names of the successful external directors in due course. CEO, Di Giblin, and I recently attended the annual forum hosted by the Associations Forum looking at the issues facing not for profits and of the approaches taken by some of the country's most proactive boards in moving forward. A board balanced with an appropriate skill set is obviously critical.

I have also been impressed by the number of applicants with a genuine interest in public education who, if unsuccessful in the board applications, have nevertheless offered to serve us in a voluntary capacity on our reference groups. We are continuously asked to respond to a plethora of educational issues. Rural and remote education, disability, indigenous issues, gender and respectful relationships spring immediately to mind, but these are only some of many. It is only when we are able to glean thoughts from as many individuals and jurisdictions as possible, that we are able to provide a truly national perspective.

With the federal election looming, the board has taken the initiative to provide the opportunity for the various political parties to present their respective positions on education. We will do this at the same time as our next meeting on 29,30 March in Sydney and we have extended an invitation to all associations, whether ACSO affiliates or not, or indeed to other kindred organizations to join us. At time of writing, I am continuously noting the various claims being made almost daily by all the major parties so it will be useful for the audience to hear of these first hand and to be able to question the representatives. In a similar vein I have accepted an invitation from the Australian Secondary Principals Association (ASPA) to participate in a national forum "The Future of Australian Education". One hundred leading Australian educators will gather at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra in March to consider the range of issues affecting the formulation of public discourse and policy direction in this area of vital public interest. Some of you will have heard me express the view in the past that a strong and well-funded, well-functioning public education system is intrinsic to our nation's wellbeing, indeed I have the view that such a construct stands between us and complete social dislocation. It is for this reason that ACSO's mandate of a "fair, simple and transparent" model of national education funding is to be pursued with vigor by all of us with an interest in the quality of our public education system.

Kevan Goodworth. Chair.

Congratulations Vivienne Pearce OAM

In this year's Australia Day honours, former ACSSO Vice President, Vivienne Pearce, was most deservedly the recipient of an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia). Viv is a member of the ACT P&C Council and has served as their President in the past. Viv is a passionate supporter for public education – her paramount desire is for equity and opportunity for all our young people, but especially those in our nation's public schools. During her time as ACSSO Vice President, Viv led the development of ACSSO's sustainability policy and was an integral member of the Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance – ensuring ACSSO had a voice in that network. Viv is dedicated to ensuring there is a sustainable future and identifies our youth as key to this. Congratulations Viv.



(Vivienne Pearce at the AESA launch)



(Viv Pearce on ACSSO Executive 2015)




(Viv planting an "I Give a Gonski")

Starting School – a guide for families



<http://www.parentsaustralia.com/index.php/page-three>

A great list of resources and links from our Parents Australia website in particular a link to this guide put together by ACT Government “**STARTING SCHOOL -A guide for Families 2018-2019**” which has great information and tips which you or your school may find useful




ARE YOU DOING IT TOUGH DUE TO THE DROUGHT?



Government agencies will be visiting town to assess individual situations and provide assistance accessing drought support.

Even if you are in doubt, please come along to talk to agencies about your situation.



<p>Walgett 9am-12pm Tuesday 12 February 2019 Walgett RSL Club 71 Fox Street, Walgett</p>	<p>Bourke 9am-12pm Wednesday 13 February 2019 Bourke PCYC Cnr Hope and Wilson Street, Bourke</p>	<p>Brewarrina 9am-12pm Thursday 14 February 2019 Brewarrina RSL Club Cnr Bourke and Sandon St, Brewarrina</p>
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Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
Department of Human Services
Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
Department of Jobs and Small Business

Department of Primary Industries

Local Land Services

Drought Taskforce

More dates coming for February.....Our country and particularly NSW is suffering terrible drought and hardship.

Our friends from Drought Taskforce are running a series of community outreach events to highlight the assistance available from many Govt agencies, these events have been happening for the past few weeks with three more planned next week. Those effected are encouraged to attend, there is help available

More info/media release:

<http://www.acsso.org.au/application/files/3815/4882/5095/010W1715.PDF>

“Together for a better internet”

Whilst ‘Safer Internet Day’ on Feb 5th is behind us, it’s important to keep the message going, Bravehearts have some great resources and advice to protect those 60% of Australian kids and young people now accessing the internet via mobile devices.

<https://bravehearts.org.au/what-we-do/education-and-training/for-parents/keeping-safe-online/>

Caught You Being Great - CYBG

This year ACSO are introducing an element to our social media pages, highlighting great things in public education, schools, teachers, students, parents or family engagement, called “CAUGHT YOU BEING GREAT”



This classroom in a Western Sydney School, gives an outstanding example of great practise, who wouldn't want to learn from this wonderful teacher.

If you have an example of people in our school communities doing great things, we would love to hear about them, please email to comms@acso.org.au

Clean up Australia

Once again this great campaign is running on Sunday 3rd March, here's how you can participate:

Business Clean up Day – Tuesday 26th Feb

Youth/Schools Clean up Day – Friday 1st March

Clean up Australia – Sunday 3rd March

Please follow link for ideas and more information

<https://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/>



The following is a general interest contribution from our friends at My Future Careers:



[myfuture](#) is Australia's National Career Information Service. It assists career planning, career pathways and work transitions by providing information and support for career development for students, and additional resources for those who support or influence career choices.

myfuture is managed by Education Services Australia (ESA), a national not-for-profit company and sustainable education service provider owned by all the state, territory and Australian Government education ministers.

myfuture's theoretical underpinning is inspired by the DOTS (Decision learning, Opportunity awareness, Transition learning, Self-awareness) model of career education (Law and Watts, 2015).

For more information about the service, start exploring myfuture today, or [contact us](#) with your queries.