

# what's hot?



Term 4 Week 4 2011

**Dear Colleague,**

Local Schools, Local Decisions has certainly become the major topic of conversation at the moment and will eventually change the way we operate in schools. You should have received a copy of our recommendations paper last weekend.

Please bear in mind this is our initial response to suggestions raised throughout the DEC consultation process, in addition to various ideas and proposals being raised from a variety of areas including the Better Schools Program Office.

In discussions with the Director-General, Dr Michele Bruniges, I have been assured that no 'model' is currently in place and that there is no intention to replicate models currently in operation in other States and Territories. The D-G is looking at building a model from the 'ground up', based on ideas and suggestions from all stakeholders (Principals, teachers, parents, communities etc).

We would ask you to take the time to not only read through the NSWPPA Local Schools, Local Decisions Paper but also think carefully about the implications for yourself and your school's circumstances and also those of your colleagues, whether they be a teaching Principal or leader of a PP1. You can provide feedback to Vice-President Geoff Scott in the short term at [gscott@nswppa.org.au](mailto:gscott@nswppa.org.au). Naturally, there will be further discussions at State Council on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November but remember we have to have the recommendations paper ready to submit by the 18<sup>th</sup> of November.

## **Other Major Items**

### **Annual Conference – NSWPPA Business Sessions**

Once again Annual Conference was an outstanding success. Our hard working Conference Committee members, led by Rob Walker and Mary Lambert, were just sensational in their organisation and it all went off without a hitch.

Apart from some outstanding keynote speakers, we had the Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, Premier of NSW, open the Conference and his keynote address was well received. We also had Wendy Harmer, well known media personality and comedian, propose the Toast to Public Education at the reception on Thursday evening. Wendy had the room in stitches and was wonderfully supportive of Public Education.

The Director-General delivered a very positive keynote address prior to our Awards Ceremony and took great delight in presenting our colleagues with their awards and Life Memberships. We were also graced with the attendance of Norm Hart, President of APPA, and Gabrielle Leigh, President of AGPPA, who presented their reports to the AGM in person.

Congratulations are extended to the 2011 Life Members: Angie Evans, John Willing, Kerry Sweeney, Neil McLean, Warren Poole, Sue Aitken and Tim Edwards. Grant McCallum and Phyllis Frederick received 2011 Professional Awards and John Paterson received the Social Justice and Equity Award.

The AGM and General Meeting Business sessions during the Conference had the highest attendance that anyone could remember. This meant that the level of feedback, input and endorsement of our LSLD Paper was both rigorous and gratifying.

I would like to again thank Gabrielle Leigh, AGPPA and VPA President for coming up from Victoria to address our Principals at both the AGM and the Business Session. A very special thanks also to Stephen Breen, WAPPA President, who flew in from Perth, arriving at 11.00 pm on the Wednesday and flying back

# what's hot?



Term 4 Week 4 2011

to Perth on Thursday afternoon, for his input and advice on LSLD, based on the West Australian 'Independent Public Schools' program. The input from both these guests helped inform our position and provided the Principals present with a deeper insight into local empowerment.

We continue to encourage all Principals to attend Annual Conference. I received the following message from a first time attendee earlier this week.

*"I wanted to thank you and the NSW PPA for providing such a fantastic conference. I will not forget this exciting and professionally worthwhile conference, as this was my first PPA conference and first year as a Principal.*

*The learning, support and collegiality that was fostered and encouraged were nothing short of excellent. I met some fantastic people, caught up with old friends and saw and heard things I didn't think I would hear. The team of people who ran the conference was nothing less than brilliant, professional and kind to a newbie who felt a little out of his depth.*

*It is not often that people take the time to thank their colleagues for the work they do, I wanted to ensure that the PPA executive were aware that I was grateful for the professional and personal learning I engaged in during the conference.'*

I think this says it all.

## **State Council dates for 2012 - reminder**

The proposed dates for 2012 State Council (all to be held at the Citigate) are:

Term 1, Week 7, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

Term 2, Week 6, May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>

Term 3, Week 7, August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

Term 4, Week 7, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

We would ask that all Area Council Executive ensure there are no clashes between Regional Conferences / Area Council Meetings with State Council dates.

## **Public Pre-Schools User-Pay Model**

Three members of the State Executive met with the Minister and his advisors regarding the proposed Pre-Schools Model. The Minister reiterated his statement that no child would be refused entry to a Public School Pre-School based on their inability to pay the fees.

While we are not convinced that a User-Pay Model won't disadvantage many prospective students, we focused on the issue of the likely decrease in resources available to schools to continue to provide a high quality service without impacting on the school's global budget. We provided the Minister with a large amount of data outlining our concerns. He took note of our concerns and has asked his staff and the DEC to investigate our claims to determine if more support for the schools can be made available.

We will continue to pursue this issue with the Minister to ensure our schools and children are not disadvantaged by this policy. We would like to thank all the Principals with Pre-Schools who responded to our survey request. This data has provided the basis for our discussions with the Minister and strengthened our position. Thanks, too, to Cheryl Tate and Phil Seymour for their work on the survey. I have included a report from our Early Childhood Working Party about this issue.

# what's hot?



Term 4 Week 4 2011

## Early Childhood Working Party [ECWP]

There has been a lot of activity in this sector recently ranging from compulsory fees, the implementation of the National Quality Framework & accompanying Assessment & Rating instrument, to the Review of NSW Early Childhood & Care Funding.

Many thanks to all of those schools who responded to our NSWPPA survey on the impact of **compulsory pre-school fees** at very short notice. The data you provided has helped in our submissions to both DEC and the Minister. We continue to “fight this fight” advocating for our Pre- Schools. We realize that this is a huge PR exercise for Principals and has the potential to damage school-community relationships. The Director of Student Achievement & Community Partnerships, Robyn Bale, and the Early Childhood team, are visiting all Regions, discussing the impact of pre-school fees on your schools and communities. If you have any concerns arising from this, please contact the Directorate, or Cheryl Tate, Chairperson of our ECWP. [Fairvale PS]

Following the trial of the **National Quality Standard Draft Assessment & Rating Instrument** our advice is, even though assessments will commence in 2012, it will not proceed in DEC Pre-Schools until 2014. The draft instrument is subject to further modification, so please await further advice from the ECWP.

The NSWPPA is currently preparing a submission for the **NSW Review of Early Childhood Education & Care Funding**. This will be presented in mid November and focuses on addressing the inequities existing between DEC Pre-Schools & others. Our recommendations relate to expansion under the Universal Access requirements; funding of students with disabilities who are in our DEC Pre-Schools; DEC Pre-School fees; the need for supplementation for resourcing and ongoing support for the implementation of the National Quality Framework.

## National Day of Action – Schools Funding Review - November 15th

The Australian Government Primary Principals' Association (AGPPA) has joined with the Australian Secondary Principals' Association, the federal AEU and the Australian Council for State School Organisations (ACSSO) to ask David Gonski and the federal Education Minister, Peter Garratt, to support the best funding levels for government schools. It is vital that they hear a large and collective voice from all over Australia.

On this day we are encouraging the public education community to send a message to the head of the Review, David Gonski, about the benefits of greater investment in public schools. That message can be sent via the website:

[www.forourfuture.org.au](http://www.forourfuture.org.au).

Your message will also be automatically forwarded to your local federal member and to Peter Garratt. Could you also encourage your staff and parent community to send an email on or before the **15th November**?

## SLSP Trial Update

We are expecting an announcement within the next couple of weeks about the status of the SLSP trial in regard to the ISER and whether it will be rolled out across the state in 2012. I mentioned in the email I sent out on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October that the decision is being delayed by protocols at a federal level, linked to the Students with Disabilities National Partnership initiative, which all States and Territories are involved in endorsing and signing off.

# what's hot?



Term 4 Week 4 2011

## **Rural Education Forum - NSWPPA / NSWSPC / DEC**

This will be held over two days on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November. We will have the majority of members of our Rural Education Working Party present, as well as a representative from both our Teaching Principals and Human Resources Reference Groups.

There will be a significant number of issues addressed related to Rural Education, including:

Student welfare and behaviour, teacher, executive and principal mobility, recruitment patterns, incentives, federal issues, rural outcomes project, national picture and issues for the future.

## **NSWPPA Submissions**

Our colleagues have been involved in quite a deal of work behind the scenes in preparing detailed submissions and position papers across a variety of issues. These submissions include:

- Submission to the NSW Ministerial Advisory Group on Literacy and Numeracy
- School Learning Support Program (SLSP) Trial in the Illawarra South East Region
- NSWPPA Survey on Impact of New Fee Structure for DEC Preschools – Analysis
- Local Schools, Local Decisions – Recommendations from NSWPPA as part of the consultation process
- NSWPPA submission to the Review of school counselling services available to students in NSW government schools.

## **Annual School Report update**

Gerry McCloughan, Assistant Director, Educational Measurement and School Accountability, has asked me to pass on the following information.

The ASR template and support document for 2011 are now approved and are available for downloading from the Department's Intranet at:

[https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/directorates/schoimpro/EMD/asr\\_support\\_docs.htm](https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/directorates/schoimpro/EMD/asr_support_docs.htm)

As discussed, there are minor changes to the reporting requirements from last year, mostly related to the revised School Planning policy, 2011. Information was published in School Biz on Friday 28 October. The ASR Access Tool will be available from mid-November and will allow schools to download the ASR template and Support document together with the target setting tool and the primary electronic data summary sheet (eDSS).

Please note, there will be additional tables provided this year in the eDSS related to reporting of National Minimum Standards, providing the option for principals to better describe the school's context in relation to exempt students.

Thank you for your input and support in preparing the ASR documents for 2011.

Regards  
Gerry

# what's hot?



Term 4 Week 4 2011

## NSWPPA – working for Principals

Since the previous What's Hot in Week 10 last term the Executive and representative activities have included:

- ❖ Meeting with Minister re Local Decision making, Pre-Schools, SLSP, Rural Education
- ❖ Addressing NSWPPA regional and area meetings and conferences across the state
- ❖ Meeting with D-G and Senior DEC executive
- ❖ Attendance at Minister's Arts/ Education dinner lecture
- ❖ Meeting re AEEYSOC briefing
- ❖ Meeting re Years 6/7 transition with PLO Strategic Initiatives Directorate
- ❖ Meetings with LSLD Steering Committee
- ❖ Meeting with D-G re RAND presentation
- ❖ Futures Alliance meeting
- ❖ Meetings with NSWSPC senior executive
- ❖ Meeting with DD-G Workplace Management and Systems Improvement
- ❖ Meeting with DD-G Finance and Infrastructure
- ❖ Meeting with rel General Manager, Better Schools Program Office
- ❖ Meeting with DD-G Schools
- ❖ Meetings with NSWPPA Reference Groups and Working Parties
- ❖ Meeting with Director, Student Achievement and Community Partnerships
- ❖ Meeting with General Manager, Human Resources re new 'Public Interest Disclosures'
- ❖ Responding to a variety of media enquiries on radio and in the print media on a variety of issues.

## IN BRIEF

The following is a list of surveys and projects that may be of interest to Principals.

### ICT Support Survey

Peter Lee, a member of our Technology RG has asked that we all keep an eye out for a survey from ICT that will be emailed to teachers about the level of support for ICT in schools. We would encourage all staff to complete the survey.

### Primary Colours

#### ***Do you have any creative geniuses in your K-6 classes?***

Our senior officers would like a primary artwork to brighten up their workplace! This is an opportunity for K-6 students to create an original artwork for one of these officers. The selected artworks will be framed and firstly displayed in a special exhibition at Bridge Street Level 2 Atrium from the 21<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Artists and schools will be invited to come in person or via video-conference to meet the senior officers and look at all the artworks on show. The works will then be shown for all to see in the senior officer's workplace for an entire year after which they will be returned to the school.

In addition to this, artworks will then be selected to enter into the Primary Colours auction on the 23 April 2012 with all proceeds to be donated to Stewart House. There is no limit to the imagination of NSW public school children so now is the time to start creating.

**The deadline for entries is 5pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2012.**

All artists will receive an award of recognition in taking part and for the wonderful effort they have put in. If you would like your students to get involved in this colourful, creative and fun project let us know now and

# what's hot?



Term 4 Week 4 2011

register at:

[https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/marketing/primary\\_colours/](https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/marketing/primary_colours/)

Kind Regards

**Monica Ling**

*Corporate Events*

**Corporate Marketing Directorate**

## Great Schools Show Off

Early this year the DEC launched an annual initiative called the Great Schools Show-off (GSSO). The GSSO is a project which encourages schools to work with students to create a short promotional film or video to use on their school website and elsewhere to promote their school to their local community.

The Great Schools Show-off gave schools and students the opportunity to tell their school story; to let everyone know what is so great about their school; to bring together the latest technology with the current curriculum; and to promote the outstanding work done in public schools through this project by presenting a wide and diverse range of creative video footage which promoted their school.

The 2011 Great School Show-off was such a great success with 212 schools participating that we would like to hold this wonderful event again.

Registrations of interest are now open for the **2012 Great School-off** at:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/marketing/gss/enter.htm>

For more information please go to:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/marketing/gss/>

## LEAP

Principals (and deputy principals) interested in the LEAP shadowing/study tour to Ontario or UK in 2012 should contact Warren Marks (0412049637 or [Warren.Marks@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Warren.Marks@det.nsw.edu.au)<<mailto:Warren.Marks@det.nsw.edu.au>>) for the registration form for the 2012 LEAP Program Information Session to be held on 11th November, 2011.

## AITSL

### **Leading Curriculum Change program update**

More than 1100 Australian school educators have begun exploring the challenges of leadership and curriculum change in AITSL's first 'flagship' professional learning program for teachers. The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership opened the Professional Learning Flagship Program: Leading Curriculum Change in September 2011 to an enthusiastic and diverse group of educators from every state and territory, every sector, every phase of schooling and geographic region.

The Leading Curriculum Change program is a fully facilitated, online, national community of practice, which has been developed by The University of Queensland in collaboration with AITSL. Teachers are responding to the highly interactive learning design and are actively sharing their knowledge, skills and experiences with colleagues from across the nation. The program encourages classroom teachers to reflect on insights and experiences from highly regarded practitioners and nationally and internationally regarded academics, including Professor John Hattie, Professor Rob Gilbert and Professor Bob Lingard.

**A call for more teachers**

# what's hot?



Term 4 Week 4 2011

AITSL is encouraging more teachers to participate in the program. Up to 2000 can be accommodated in the first round of the Professional Learning Flagship Program: Leading Curriculum Change. This program is for all teachers with formal or informal responsibility for curriculum leadership and the learning opportunities provided will enhance a teacher's knowledge, confidence and skills to lead curriculum change.

### **No direct costs to teachers or schools to be involved**

There are no direct costs for up to 2000 teachers who engage in the first round of the program and there is a small financial acknowledgement paid to schools when teachers from that school complete 9 of the 12 structured learning modules the first round of the program.

### **Submit an Expression of Interest**

To be invited to register in the program, all first round participants will need to submit an online Expression of Interest (Eoi)

at [www.aitsl.edu.au/lcc](http://www.aitsl.edu.au/lcc). [FAQs](#) and [Orientation materials](#) are also available on the AITSL website [www.aitsl.edu.au/lcc](http://www.aitsl.edu.au/lcc).

For more information about the program contact [lcc@aitsl.edu.au](mailto:lcc@aitsl.edu.au)

***Please remember to contact your Association, through either your local Area Primary Principals' Council President or State Executive members, if there are any matters with which we can provide support and assistance.***

***On behalf the Executive, Jackie Malecki, Jennie Fogarty, Steve McAlister, Desley Morgan, Grahame Morgan, Mark Pritchard, Will Randall, Geoff Scott, Phil Seymour and myself . . .***

***We hope all those who had the opportunity to attend Annual Conference had a wonderful three days. Term 4 has started in a rush as usual – be sure to look after yourselves during the bedlam!***

**Best Regards,**

**Jim**

**Jim Cooper  
President**

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