



Association of
Independent Schools
of South Australia

BULLETIN NO 7

21 October 2020

Important Issues

COVID-19 Update – AISSA Annual Appreciation Function

The AISSA is disappointed to advise that, given current COVID restrictions, this year's Annual Appreciation event, scheduled to be held on Wednesday 18 November, will need to be a scaled-down version. The event is an important opportunity for the AISSA to thank its member schools for the essential work they do in supporting the Association. It is particularly disappointing that we are unable to hold our usual event given the critical role all schools have played in the South Australian response to COVID-19. The Noel Volk Award winners and, where relevant, their Principals, will be invited to the event. The Noel Volk Awards are presented at the Appreciation Function to individuals who have given outstanding service to the AISSA and/or our member schools.

COVID-19 Update – End of Year Events

The AISSA has sought clarification on a number of questions it has received regarding end of year events. A response has been provided by the Department for Education which is based on the latest SA Health advice (see email from Carolyn Grantskalns, 21 October 2020). All updates for school leaders from the AISSA Chief Executive are available on the AISSA [website](#).

AISSA Staff News

The AISSA welcomes Mrs Laura Bhalla to the new role of Specialist Policy and Compliance Consultant, and Mrs Sonia Harrison, who joins the AISSA Administrative Officer team. Both Laura and Sonia bring to the AISSA a wealth of experience with regard to their respective roles. Commencing mid 2021, the AISSA will be offering member schools the opportunity for Laura to undertake audits of policy documents. Further information will be available in 2021.

Australian Government Funding

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment held a webinar on the new methodology for calculating Capacity to Contribute on Thursday 15 October. It is anticipated that schools will receive their 2021 DMI values in November.

State Government Recurrent Funding

The Minister for Education, the Hon John Gardner, has written to Independent school authorities advising them of the arrangements for 2021 funding. Please contact [Carolyn Grantskalns](#) if you have any questions about State Government funding.

Choice and Affordability Fund

The AISSA is funding a number of programs, including special circumstances funding, through the Australian Government Choice and Affordability Fund. The AISSA's 2020-21 workplan is available on the AISSA [website](#). Further information regarding programs will be forwarded to schools in the near future.

COVID-19 Grant Program

Under the Choice and Affordability Fund, the AISSA is making available small grants to assist member schools with the increased cleaning costs associated with maintaining a COVID-19 safe environment (email from Carolyn Grantskalns, 28 September). All schools are eligible to apply for the grant by completing the application form. Grant amounts will vary depending on the number of applications and the size of school. Application forms must be returned no later than COB Friday 23 October to [AISSA grants](#).

National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) 2020 acquittal and 2021 application

The NSCP 2020 Acquittal and 2021 Applications are due no later than COB Friday 30 October 2020. The forms are to be returned by email to [AISSA Grants](#). As previously advised, member schools which are funding a Chaplaincy/ Religious Pastoral Support Worker under the NSCP are required to ensure that their Chaplain/ Religious Pastoral Support Worker completes a three hour online professional learning package (PLP) aimed at responding to and preventing cyberbullying. Chaplains/Religious Pastoral Support Workers have until December 2020 to register for and complete the training. Schools will be ineligible for funding in 2021 if the training has not been completed by December 2020. The training only needs to be completed once. Please contact [Carolyn Grantskalns](#) or [Bronwyn Donaghey](#) if you have any questions regarding the program.

Federal Budget 2020-2021

The Federal Budget was presented on Tuesday 6 October. An AISSA Special Bulletin Federal Budget 2020-2021 has been forwarded to member schools (email from Bronwyn Donaghey, 7 October) outlining the key announcements for the school sector. Further information regarding the budget is available on the Australian Government Budget 2020-2021 [website](#).

Students with disability: Disability Royal Commission Counselling & Advocacy Services

Students with disability who have experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, as well as people who would like support engaging with the Disability Royal Commission, can access free and independent counselling and advocacy support by calling the National Counselling and Referral Service on 1800 421 468. Further information and resources are available via the following links:

- [Communication toolkit](#) – including social media messages, and newsletter and website content
- [Disability counselling and advocacy support web page](#) – with publications, translated fact sheets, information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences, captioned videos, and Easy Read and Auslan resources
- International Day Of People With Disability [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

Review into the Regional Schooling Resource Standard Loading

The National School Resourcing Board is undertaking a review into the Regional Schooling Resource Standard Loading. The [terms of reference](#) require the Board to consider funding provided to regional and remote schools, provide findings and make recommendations relating to the current settings for the school location and school size loadings and the data informing the loadings. The AISSA is seeking feedback from member schools, particularly in regional and remote areas, on the review. A meeting was held by Zoom on Monday 19 October. The AISSA would welcome any further feedback from member schools by COB Wednesday 28 October. Please provide this feedback to [Bronwyn Donaghey](#).

National Careers Institute - School Leaver Information and Support

The National Careers Institute (NCI) has just released a range of information and services designed to assist School Leavers and their influencers to understand their education, training and work options. The [School Leavers Information kit](#) covers a range of topics to assist School Leavers to navigate their options, both short and long term. The School Leavers Information Service has also been launched. This support service delivers more tailored support services via telephone or text. Interested parties can call 1800 CAREER (1800 227 337) or SMS 'SLIS2020' to 0429 009 435 for more information. The Your Career [website](#) has a range of tools and resources.

SA Health Competition

SA Health has developed competitions for primary school aged children to recognise Antimicrobial Awareness Week (18-24 November) and promote the safe use of antimicrobials (antibiotic, antiviral, antifungal, and antiparasitic medications). It is important for children to begin to have an understanding of antimicrobial resistance so that we can limit overuse now and in the future. The [Colouring Competition](#) is suitable for under 8s and involves colouring in bacteria and drawing a face on a germ. Additional information for the colouring in competition is available [here](#). The [Poster Competition](#) is suitable for over 8s and involves creating a poster or picture to display an understanding of safe antibiotic use. If individual schools would like a bulk number of copies printed please contact HealthAntibio@sa.gov.au. For more information and access to resources, please visit the [website](#).



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Compliance Dates

School Card	Term 4 collection date, 23 October Further Information: Department for Education - External Relations
DfE Preschool Data Collection	Term 4 collection due date (reference period 30 October-13 November) due 19-30 October Enquiries: Libby Worrell
Superannuation	Quarterly Superannuation Payment due Further Information: ATO-Superannuation
ATO Annual Reporting	Payments to and amounts withheld from businesses that did not quote their ABN report due 31 October Further Information: ATO Annual Reporting
ATO Annual Reporting	Information about payments you made and amounts withheld from an investment where a payee did not quote their TFN (or in some cases, their ABN) due 31 October Further Information: ATO Annual Reporting
STATS	Final date for entering and declaring Term 3 Student Attendance Data on SchoolsHUB, 16 November Further Information: SchoolsHUB
Capital Grants Program	BGA Round 2022 Stage 1 Capital Grant applications closing date 17 November Further Information: Capital Grants Program (BGA)
School Card	Term 4 collection date, 20 November Further Information: Department for Education - External Relations

A full list of 2020 Compliance dates is available on the AISSA website www.ais.sa.edu.au. Not all compliance dates may be applicable to all schools. Schools are advised to check with the relevant authorities if they are unsure.

Authorised by Carolyn Grantskalns
AISSA Chief Executive