



Association of
Independent Schools
of South Australia

BULLETIN NO 8

2 December 2020

Important Issues

Message from the AISSA Chief Executive, Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns

This has been an incredibly challenging and strange year for member schools and their staff, students, and families. I have been most impressed with the way in which South Australian Independent schools have approached the challenges brought by the impact of COVID-19 and the strong support and commitment the sector has shown to playing its part in the State Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. South Australia has a long history of collaboration and collegiality between the three education sectors which has been extremely beneficial during this pandemic and I would like to express my thanks in particular to the Department for Education for their willingness to share resources with member schools. I wish all member school communities a safe and relaxing holiday period and it is my sincere hope that 2021 will bring a more "conventional" school year for both schools and their students.

Staff News

The AISSA will sadly farewell two long-serving staff members at the end of 2020. After a long and distinguished career in education, Mrs Janet Farrell, Senior Educational Consultant, has decided to conclude her role with the AISSA, however, she will continue her consultancy work with schools on a fee for service basis. Ms Katherine Zollo, Director – Centre for Innovation and Senior Educational Consultant, is leaving to take up another employment opportunity within our sector. Both Janet and Katherine have brought considerable expertise to the AISSA and made significant contributions to its work in educational services. The AISSA thanks them for their service to Independent education and wishes them both well for the future.

COVID-19 Update – End of Year Events

As per the update sent Tuesday 1 December (email from Carolyn Grantskalns), which also covered QR Codes, Swimming and Masks, the current directions for end of year events are unlikely to change before 14 December. The advice continues to be that events on school or preschool sites can continue, however attendance outside the staff and student body should be minimised, events held at public venues must comply with current COVID restrictions and at all events, adults must be able to physically distance, hygiene measures must be in place and attendance records must be kept for contact tracing. All COVID-19 Updates are available to school leaders on the [AISSA website](#).

2020 Noel Volk Awards

The 2020 Noel Volk Awards unfortunately had to be postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in South Australia. The AISSA intends to announce the winners at an Award Ceremony in early Term 1, 2021.

Bushfires

A memo has been forwarded to member schools containing important information in regard to the Bushfire Season 2020-21 (email from Carolyn Grantskalns, 26 November 2020). The Department for Education has provided access to their Emergency Management Policy and Procedure, Bushfire Preparation Procedure and Bushfire Response Procedure. These and other relevant resources are available on the [AISSA website](#).

COVID-19 Direct Grant Program

All schools which applied for a COVID-19 Direct Grant will receive a letter in the week commencing 7 December advising the grant amount. The grant will be paid in the week commencing 13 December.

State Government Recurrent Funding

The AISSA is advocating with the State Government regarding the timely payment of the December State Grant. Further information on the timing will be provided once it is confirmed.

Intervention orders – Updated Contact Details

Under the *Intervention Order (Prevention of Abuse) Act, 2009* schools are notified when young people are listed on an Intervention Order and are provided with a copy of the Order. It would be appreciated if schools which have yet to provide updated contact details for 2021 could do so as soon as possible to [Rae Dawkins](#).

Sanctions for Charities that Fail to Join the National Redress Scheme

The Australian Government has announced its intention to introduce sanctions for charities that fail to join the National Redress Scheme including a new Governance Standard and an amendment to the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* (the ACNC Act). Under the new Standard, registered charities will be required to take all reasonable steps to become a participating non-government institution in the National Redress Scheme if a claim has been, or is likely to be made against them. The amendment to the ACNC Act will mean religious institutions will not be eligible to be classified as Basic Religious Charities (BRC), and exempt from the ACNC Governance Standards, if they have been named in an application but have not joined the Scheme. Please contact [Sonia Albertini](#) if you require further information.

Summer in Adelaide - Events and Activities for International School Students

StudyAdelaide has launched a Summer Program for international school students unable to return home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which includes a variety of activities and events. Registration is via the [dedicated landing page](#). Further information has been forwarded to CRICOS registered member schools (email from Bronwyn Donaghey, 26 November 2020).

Be You Programs Directory

The redeveloped Be You [Programs Directory](#) is a searchable database of mental health and wellbeing programs for learning communities, designed to help educators choose programs to implement. All programs listed have been through a rigorous assessment process designed in collaboration with experts at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the University of Melbourne. For more information please contact [Mary Pickett](#).

Australian Childhood Foundation – Trauma Responsive Practice in Education Training

The foundational [Trauma Responsive Practice in Education – online training](#) consists of 11 self-paced modules and provides an overview of trauma, principles of trauma responsive practice and a framework for educators to effectively respond, along with practical strategies. It is currently being offered at the reduced price of \$33 pp. The training may be useful for schools in responding to the increase in student anxiety and trauma resulting from the impact of COVID-19. A free resource [Making Space for Learning – trauma informed practice in schools](#) is also available.

Suicide Response and Postvention Guidelines – 2020 Revised edition

The revised Guidelines, which are designed to help schools respond to a student's suspected traumatic death or possible suicide, are available on the AISSA [website](#). A student's traumatic death is a very challenging event and we encourage schools to plan carefully and engage with headspace Schools to update or develop your school's postvention plan. Please contact: Ebony Gill, Clinical Lead, M 0417 119 733 headspace.org.au. Hard copies of the revised guidelines have been sent to all secondary/combined schools. Please contact [Rae Dawkins](#) before Wednesday 16 December if you would like another copy. For further information please contact [Mary Pickett](#).

Literacy Guarantee Conference, 14 January 2021

This online presentation will be offered free to all educators. The keynote speaker, Lyn Stone, will present on how systematic spelling instruction supports all students to become proficient spellers. Lyn brings a wealth of knowledge and experience about literacy instruction. Registration and further information are available via the following [link](#).



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Compliance Dates

Update Details	Update details of changes to key personnel on SchoolsHUB, ongoing Further Information: SchoolsHUB
Update Details	Ensure details are accurate on Child Care Management System (CCMS) Further Information: DESE - Child Care Subsidy
Update Details	Advise DoE External Relations of any changes to key personnel, ongoing Further Information: DoE - External Relations
STATS	Reference period* commences for the collection of Student Attendance Data (DET) January/ February *Reference Period: 'the first school day of the year through to and including the last school day of Semester 1, or until the Friday on or before 30 June if there is no break in June/July' Further Information: Schools Service Point Help
Superannuation	Quarterly Payment due 28 January Further Information: ATO-Superannuation
Teachers Registration Board	Census undertaken in February.
Capital Grants Program	BGA Round 2022 Stage 2 Capital Grant applications closing date 2 February Further Information: Capital Grants Program (BGA)
NAPLAN	Student registration data due 8 February AISSA Contact: Emily Metelmann
Student Residential Address Collection	2021 collection undertaken in February/ March (tbc) Further Information: SchoolsHUB

A full list of 2021 Compliance dates will be available on the AISSA website www.ais.sa.edu.au in early Term 1, 2021. Not all compliance dates may be applicable to all schools. Schools are advised to check with the relevant authorities if they are unsure.

AISSA Office Closure

The AISSA Office will close at 12 noon on Friday 18 December and reopen on Monday 4 January. Please contact [Carolyn Grantskalns](#) if you require assistance over this period.

Authorised by Carolyn Grantskalns AISSA Chief Executive