



Association of
Independent Schools
of South Australia

BULLETIN NO 5

4 August 2021

Important Issues

COVID-19 Update – Message from the AISSA Chief Executive, Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns

It was heartening to see the Independent school sector's ability to move to remote delivery of education and then return to face to face learning within the space of seven days. It seems likely that schools will need to prepare for the possibility of further changes to education delivery, whether that be increased restrictions on activities and school operations or moving to remote delivery for periods of time, should South Australia experience another outbreak of the Delta variant. The use of masks for staff and students, in year levels above Year 8, is a new risk mitigation strategy that schools have been requested by the Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spurrier, to put in place. Professor Spurrier has [recorded a video](#) to assist schools in their ongoing conversations with students and their families about the importance of wearing masks.

2021 Governance Conference: What Boards Need to Know About Wellbeing - Saturday 16 October 9am – 3.30pm

Wellbeing is a critical issue in schools and increasingly links are being demonstrated between wellbeing approaches in schools and school success. The 2021 Governance Conference focusses on the role of school boards in providing a framework for wellbeing in the schools they govern. Leading thinkers in the field will present at the conference, including Dr Helen Street, Honorary Research Fellow, Graduate School of Education, University of Western Australia, David Runge, Director, Future Schools, and Andrew Brown, Director, Adaptive Cultures. Key themes which will be explored on the day include how board culture impacts the health and wellbeing of the school and how school boards can support school and community wide approaches to wellbeing. Registration details will be forwarded to schools in the near term.

ISA and AHISA National Education Forum

The ISA and AHISA joint National Education Forum originally to be held in Canberra on Thursday 5 August 2021 has been postponed primarily due to the uncertainty regarding border closures as a result of COVID-19 outbreaks. This forum is now likely to be held on Thursday 17 March 2022. Those who have already registered for the event have been contacted and offered the opportunity to transfer their registration and booking to the new date.

New Thinking: New Possibilities AISSA Educational Leaders STEM Conference 2021 - Friday 6 August 2021, Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg

The 2021 conference, which will be held this Friday brings together educators from the Early Years to Year 12, researchers and industry experts to ignite new thinking and possibilities for the what, the why and the how of STEM rich learning and the opportunities and pathways it provides for a strong and vibrant future. The [conference program](#) includes an opportunity to hear from four visionary keynote speakers and engage in professional conversations, workshops and a panel discussion. The AISSA has worked closely with the venue to ensure the event can be held in a COVID-19 safe way. Please contact [Rae Dawkins](#) if you have any registration questions.

Cyber Risks and Rewards: The Challenges and Opportunities for Education - Friday 17 September 2021, Flinders University

In response to feedback from member schools on the increased challenges faced by schools in relation to cyber security, the AISSA established a Data Security Consultation Group. A half day conference has been arranged where key experts will provide the fundamental information and understanding needed to actively engage with the rapidly evolving dimension of cyber in schools, in both institutional security and student wellbeing. Registration is via the AISSA [website](#).

Universal Access - Term 3 2021 Annual Census Preschool Data Collection

Due to the recent South Australian lockdown the census reference period will now be Monday, 2 August 2021 to Friday, 13 August 2021 with preschool data to be entered into the NGPDS by COB Friday, 27 August 2021. Enquiries regarding the data collection should be directed to: Education.ECSupport@sa.gov.au.

2021 Census of Population and Housing on 10 August - Information Regarding School Camps and Boarding facilities

Information has been sent to member schools regarding census arrangements for students on school camps and in boarding schools (email from Carolyn Grantskalns, 30 July 2021). Any concerns or questions regarding the information should be directed to the ABS by [email](#).

Responding to the Risk of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care Training (RRHAN-EC)

The new Mandatory Reporting training is available on the Department's Plink site – login [here](#). Schools are asked to ensure all staff complete the relevant training before 31 December 2021. Scheduling meeting time with the staff to discuss the training and any concerns/questions may help build a shared understanding of the school's child protection obligations. All volunteers should complete the online Fundamentals course and each school should keep a record of their training. Further details are available on the [AISSA](#) and the [Department for Education](#) websites. For technical issues regarding accessing the training online please contact [Rae Dawkins](#) and for all other enquiries please contact [Mary Pickett](#).

Keeping our Kids Safe: Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisation (2021)

This [guidance resource](#) provides advice on helping organisations be culturally safe as well as child safe for Indigenous children and has been written for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations working with Indigenous children. [The National Office for Child Safety](#) worked in partnership with the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) to produce the Guide and an animated video (available [here](#)) which provide practical advice and highlight cultural considerations that will help organisations to make sure their spaces are culturally safe, and their programs and activities are free from racism and discrimination.

[eSafety Commissioner](#)

The [Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education](#) (the Framework) was recently launched. It establishes a consistent national approach that supports all schools to deliver high quality online safety education with clearly defined elements and effective practices. The [Implementation Guide](#) supports the Framework and draws links to the [eSafety Toolkit](#) resources. The Framework offers a clear direction for future online safety education initiatives, and it entails a well-defined set of elements and meaningful indicators that can be readily applied to practice and which support educators to design best practice online safety learning for their students.

ACNC New Financial Reporting Reforms for Charities

The Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Michael Sukkar has [announced](#) new financial reporting reforms for charities registered with the ACNC. These include changes to the reporting thresholds, effective from the 2022 Annual Information Statement reporting period, a requirement for large charities with two or more key management personnel to report remuneration paid to those personnel on an aggregated basis from the 2022 Annual Information Statement reporting period, and all charities to be required to report related party transactions in their annual reporting to the ACNC from the 2023 Annual Information Statement reporting period.

2021 Phonics Screening Check for AISSA member schools

The 2021 South Australian Phonics Screening Check has been made available to AISSA member schools wishing to use the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check as part of their school assessment practice. The Phonics Screening Check student materials and answer sheet can be accessed via the [Leading Learning and Teaching menu](#) within the AISSA member website during Term 3 from Monday 30 August. PSC materials (excluding the student materials and answer sheet) can be accessed via this link prior to the test window. The 2020 materials remain available on the website should schools wish to familiarise themselves with the Phonics Screening Check in advance of the release of the 2021 materials. The 2021 Phonics Screening Check is not compulsory for AISSA member schools. Member schools may select a Phonics screening tool of choice or access the National Phonics Screening Check via the [Literacy Hub website](#).



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Compliance Dates

Capital Grants Program	BGA Master Plan grant applications for August review close 4 August Further Information: Capital Grants Program (BGA)
STATS	Final date for entering and declaring Semester 1, Student Attendance Data on SchoolsHUB, 6 August Further Information: SchoolsHUB
Australian Government Census	Census date, 6 August Further Information: SchoolsHUB
Australian Government Census	Statutory Declaration to be completed online by 13 August Further Information: SchoolsHUB
Australian Taxation Office	PAYG payment summary annual report due 14 August Further Information: ATO Annual Reporting
Australian Government Census	Special circumstances applications due 20 August Further Information: SchoolsHUB
Term 3 Preschool Data Collection	Due 27 August (census reference period Monday, 2 August 2021 to Friday, 13 August 2021)
School Card	Term 3 data collection due 3 September Further Information: DfE - External Relations

A full list of 2021 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