



Association of
Independent Schools
of South Australia

BULLETIN NO 8

1 December 2021

Important Issues

Message from the AISSA Chief Executive, Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns

I am continually impressed by the way in which member schools have approached the management of the COVID-19 pandemic and the support that schools have provided throughout to students and school communities. While it seems likely that, as we learn to live with COVID-19, further challenges may emerge, I am confident that Independent schools remain well placed to meet these as they arise and the AISSA will be here to support you. I hope that the holiday break brings rest and refreshment for all who work in our schools.

COVID-19 Update – Current Arrangements

Specific guidelines for schools are being prepared but have not yet been finalised. Should a positive case arise in an education setting SA Health will work directly with the affected site. SA Health has stressed that schools should undertake the following actions when they are advised of a potential case by members of the school community:

- Wait for SA Health advice. SA Health have systems in place to notify close and casual contacts of positive COVID-19 cases.
- If you are contacted by SA Health, follow their instructions.
- Do not send any staff, children or students home. If this is required, you will be directed by SA Health.
- Do not notify your school or preschool community. If this is required, you will be notified by SA Health.
- Encourage anyone contacted by SA Health to follow the advice provided directly to them.

COVID-19 Update – Vaccination Q&A webinar recording

Professor Nicola Spurrier, Chief Public Health Officer, held a webinar on Friday 26 November, which addressed a range of questions raised by schools on the vaccination requirements. A [recording](#) of the webinar is now available for those who wish to watch the webinar again or were affected by sound issues. SA Health has introduced new Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine requirements. Further information on the new requirements is available on the [SA Health website](#).

AISSA Staff News

Ms Deb Virgo, who joined the AISSA for 2021 to support the work of the Centre for Innovation, will complete her time with the AISSA in December. We would like to thank Deb for all her work and wish her well for the future. The AISSA would also like to congratulate Chris Prance, Head of Educational Services, who has been made a Life Member of the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA). This is an honour only conferred on those who have given outstanding support to others in the role of leadership in a primary school setting in addition to skilfully leading their own school/s in our sector nationally.

ISA & AHISA National Education Forum – Health of the Nation

The ISA and AHISA joint National Education Forum will be held at Hotel Realm Canberra on Thursday 17 March 2022. This is an important one day forum which will bring together Principals, Board Members and other sector representatives from national and state based organisations. The forum will feature presentations from education specialists, national political leaders and other thought leaders. Registration and further information are available via the AHISA [website](#).

COVID-19 Grant Program – Masks in Schools

The COVID-19 Grants to support mask use in schools have been processed and will be paid in the week commencing 6 December. Please contact [Bronwyn Donaghey](#) if you have any questions regarding the grants.

2022 Parent Initiatives in Education (PIE) Grant Program – Applications Open

Applications for the 2022 PIE Grant Program are now open. Information on the program, including the guidelines and application form have been sent to member schools (email from Carolyn Grantskalns, 18 November 2021). Applications are due no later than Friday 10 December 2021.

Bushfires

A memo has been forwarded to member schools containing important information in regard to the Bushfire Season 2021-22 (email from Carolyn Grantskalns, 30 November 2021). The Department for Education (DfE) 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](#) (log in required).

Responding to Risk of Harm, Abuse and Neglect (RRHAN-EC)

Schools are reminded that all staff and volunteers must complete the online [Fundamentals](#) course for mandatory notification training and, if required, the [Masterclass](#) facilitator-led: face to face or virtual course, **before the end of 2021** to ensure currency and continuity of their training. A certificate with the renewal date of 31 December 2024 will be issued. To check what training is required please click [here](#). All training is accessed via the Department's LMS called [Plink](#) (log-in required). For further information please contact the [AISSA Office](#).

National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The [National Mental Health Commission](#) has developed the [National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) as part of the Australian Government's national health plan. The Strategy provides the framework and foundations for lifelong mental health and wellbeing to be built during childhood, with a whole-of-community approach. The Strategy emphasises the important role that educational settings play in promoting mental health and wellbeing in children and discusses the additional supports that may be required for educators to continue to build positive wellbeing cultures. The [full report](#) or the [summary](#) are available for download.

AITSL Report: Reducing red tape – Shifting the balance

The AITSL report, [Shifting the balance](#) explores how reducing the time teachers and school leaders spend on compliance and administration can allow them to focus on activities that have the greatest impact on students. The resources include a *School Workload Reduction Toolkit* and six best practice case studies which highlight the work already being done to make this happen, including the *Compliance Framework and Support* which was developed by the AISSA.

National Office for Child Safety – Complaint Handling Resources

The [National Office for Child Safety](#) has developed a [Complaint Handling Guide: Upholding the rights of children and young people](#), which provides advice on how to put in place a complaint-handling system that puts child safety first and promotes the rights of children and young people (C&YP) to have a voice in decisions that affect them. The [Speak up and make a complaint](#) resources aim to help C&YP understand their right to speak up when they feel unhappy, uncomfortable or unsafe. To support organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander C&YP and communities [Keeping Our Kids Safe resources](#) are available to implement the National Principles in a culturally safe and relevant way.

Grant Opportunity - Student Science Engagement and International Competitions

The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources has released a grant opportunity for schools which will provide funds to sponsor students to participate in engagement activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The prospective grants will be open between 25 October 2021 and 25 January 2022. Further information is available on the [website](#).

Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC)

The revised second edition [KS:CPC](#) has been [updated](#) to ensure currency and to strengthen the topics of consent and online safety. It now includes a holistic and developmental approach to consent across the school years. The KS:CPC provides age and developmentally appropriate strategies to help children and young people keep themselves safe. Developed in SA, it has gained a world class reputation. Staff who deliver the KS:CPC must be trained. Further information on individual or school-based training can be found [here](#) or by contacting [Mary Pickett](#).



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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 Subsidy System Further Information: DESE - Child Care Subsidy
Update Details	Advise DfE External Relations of any changes to key personnel, ongoing Further Information: DfE - External Relations
STATS	Reference period* commences for the collection of Student Attendance Data (DESE) 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 2023 Stage 2 Capital Grant applications closing date 3 February Further Information: Capital Grants Program (BGA)
NAPLAN	Student registration data due 11 February AISSA Contact: Emily Metelmann
Student Residential Address Collection	2022 collection undertaken in February – March Further Information: SchoolsHUB

A full list of 2021 Compliance dates is available on the AISSA website www.ais.sa.edu.au. 2022 dates will be updated in Term 1 2022. 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 17 December and reopen on Tuesday 4 January. Please contact [Carolyn Grantskalns](#) if you require assistance over this period.

Authorised by Carolyn Grantskalns, AISSA Chief Executive
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