National Leadership Team (NLT)

NLT met this week for the final time in 2015. Amongst the numerous agenda items, the following key issues stand out for our 2016 support for Lutheran education:

**Governance Support**

The LEVNT region has recently been focussing on how to most appropriately provide support to all school and college governing bodies with governance training, understandings and resources in key areas such as capabilities, documentation, membership, identity, roles and responsibilities and documentation. The feedback from LEVNT surveying and discussions resulted in a regional and LEA workshop with Don Walkley, Director of Australian Institute for School Governance. NLT will consider ways forward for LEA, each region and all schools to support ongoing growth and understanding for Lutheran school governance. More details and developments in 2016.

**Growing deep**

In Terms 1 and 2 next year, NLT looks forward to 'rolling out' our new LEA Leadership and Formation Framework *Growing deep* with LEA and regional staff joining hands in presenting numerous informative and celebratory sessions with Lutheran school leadership teams. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

**Quality Schools**

In May 2016, the 'Quality Schools' project will be conducted across Australia. Information will be sent to all principals in the days ahead explaining the details of and support for 'Quality Schools'. You may have questions – please contact the relevant people with your queries.

**LEA strategic plan**

The LEA strategic plan has three themes, namely:
1. Strengthening Lutheran Identity
2. Enhancing and Celebrating Thriving Learning Communities
3. Ensuring Long Term System Sustainability

Early in 2016, LEA will be sending to all Lutheran schools a brochure summarising and promoting this strategic plan for circulation to all Lutheran school staff and governing people. We look forward to communicating this to all who richly lead and serve our diverse communities in various significant ways.

**An Ecological Vision for Lutheran Education**

LEA has been discussing the development of *An Ecological Vision for Lutheran Education*. This development is a part of the LEA strategic plan 2016-2018 which states *Build an ecological vision for Lutheran education where environmental sustainability is a foundation for taking action to serve our people and our planet* and is being led by Rev Dr Norm Habel. Not only does this development fit with the LEA strategic plan, is also reflects the theme of 2017 ACLE5 *People, Planet, Purpose*.

In our early planning, Norm has begun collaborating with a number of enthusiastic staff from Cornerstone College, Mount Barker SA. Early in 2016, LEA News will offer additional Lutheran schools the opportunity to meet with Norm and myself to this exciting vision.
Australian Lutheran World Service Awareness Program 2016

Theme:  Goodness Grows: our planet, our people, our purpose

This theme will allow student and teachers to explore:

**Goodness**
- Protecting our planet as God intended
- Doing the right thing for our planet's sustainability
- God goodness towards his people

**Grows**
- Environment
- Self-sufficiency
- Life improvement
- Student growth

**Our planet**
- Everything environment and climate-related

**Our people**
- We preserve the planet because it's critical for people's lives
- We can share people stories

**Our purpose**
- We're here to take action and make a difference

**Awareness Week Dates:**  7th – 11th March 2016

**Awareness Day Dates:**
Currently Community Action Staff are locking in dates with host schools. Details will be out to most schools in the coming week.

Further details available from the ALWS Community Action Team

Susan Seng  
0407117401
susans@alws.org.au

Vicki Gollasch  
0448832263
vickig@alws.org.au

Julie Krause  
0448 818 129
juliek@alws.org.au

**Lutheran Archives Research Competition**

**My congregation - past, present and future**
1966 – 2016: 50 years of change in my congregation
How has your church family changed over the fifty years since the two major Lutheran churches in Australia amalgamated in 1966? Research your church family and produce a written report or a multimedia presentation with the title:  *My congregation - past, present and future*

**Ideas:**
- Interview your Pastor and some long standing members who might know about your congregation during the last 50 years.
- Did your congregation combine with another after the ELCA and UELCA amalgamated?
- Did your congregation form after 1966? Were any church buildings (including the manse) sold at that time or re-purposed to bring the congregations together?
- Can you find photographs of the past and present buildings?
- If so, how do they compare?
- How has the membership changed?
- Has it grown or shrunk?
- Are you in a rural area where employment on farms has changed and the population has declined?
- Has your church changed its programs and groups eg Youth group, Women's Guild etc?
You could investigate congregational statistics showing baptisms, confirmations, member figures etc.
If you like, create a model of your church plant, then and now, as an entry in the multimedia section.
Don’t forget to consider plans and goals for the future.

Age groups:  Junior - 12 years and under.  Senior – 13-16 years of age

Closing date for entries: Monday May 2, 2016.

Entries should be submitted in digital or hard copy form to Lutheran Archives.

**Word limit:**  Junior: 500 words,  Senior: 1000 words  

**Multimedia:**  Junior and senior: Six minutes in length

**Prizes:**  Cash prizes of $100 and $80 for the first and second best entries in the senior age group and $80 and $60 for the junior section. (Prizes sponsored by Wohlers Pty Ltd)

**Details:**
- Written entries may include photographs. Multimedia entries include powerpoints, films and websites
- Credit will be given for using interviews as well as written and photographic sources.
- Credit will be given for making personal or email contact with Lutheran Archives.  
  (27 Fourth St., Bowden SA 5007 Ph.: 08 8340 4009 Email: lutheran.archives@lca.org.au)
- Credit will be given for including a reference list and resource list.
- Other Criteria for judging:  Creativity, care and accuracy.
- The entries will be judged by the Archivist and a panel of volunteers at Lutheran Archives.
- To enter, email Mr. Ev Leske for an entry form and further competition information at eleske@faith.sa.edu.au

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**LEA Assistant Director:**  
**Leadership**  
[Shane Paterson]

**Quality Schools**
A full briefing concerning Quality Schools will be distributed via email, to all principals by the end of this week. The two documents you receive will provide you with an overview of the program, along with procedural matters. If you do not receive information by COB Friday could you please contact the LEA office.

**Valuing Safe Communities**
The revamped VSC package, which now includes online content delivery, was shared with existing VSC school trainers on Wednesday 11th November (via ‘Google Hangout’ – thank you Derek Bartels and LEQ office for facilitating this). Regional offices are currently in the process of organising a training time for new trainers for schools which do not currently have a trainer.

**2016 National Lutherans Principals Conference**
All principals will receive a conference brochure for next year’s conference, via LPAnet by COB Thursday 12th November. If you do not receive this please contact shane.paterson@lutheran.edu.au The conference is also open to other members of your leadership team and partners.
Student Accident Cover Insurance

The ability for parents to provide additional personal accident cover for their children through AON may be worth putting into your bulletin for schools/colleges/kindergartens. The Ace Student Personal Accident policy we currently provide through Aon has the following cover:

Did you know that the current Ace Student Personal Accident policy currently provides cover for children for 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 52 weeks per year but only in respect to any injuries that happen:

- While the student is engaged in school activities and school-related extra-curricular activities (including work experience, vocational training, excursions etc.)
- While the student is engaged in organised school sporting activities
- While the student is engaged in organised non-school sporting activities with a club that is a member of an established sporting association. The student must be a registered and/or a financial participant of the club
- During travel to and from school, school activities, organised school sporting activities, and organised non-school sporting activities.

The policy provided to all Lutheran students is not a full 24/7 cover so if a student breaks a leg at home our policy would not respond.

Aon does provides additional personal accident options that parents may wish to consider if they want to have their children covered 24/7 or if they want an additional cover on top of the student personal accident cover automatically provided. There are three levels of cover all under $25 per annum. Please refer to the link below.


LEA federal news

AISTL Annual Report 2014-2015
Promoting excellence so that teachers and school leaders have the maximum impact on student learning in all Australian schools

Overview PDF 0.6MB : Directors’ Report PDF 0.4MB : Report on Operations PDF 1.1MB :
Financial Report PDF 0.1MB : Consultation Groups & Appendices PDF 0.1MB : Complete
Report PDF 2.1MB

School Improvement Plans
[6 November 2015]

Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham, said the Australian Government’s position in relation to school autonomy and school improvement plans has not changed but our determination to hold states, territories and school systems to account is resolute. In a media release Minister Birmingham said:

All state and territory education systems already have in place a range of frameworks that require schools to develop and provide school improvement plans. For the Commonwealth to require schools to develop additional plans simply places an extra red-tape burden on schools, takes teachers away from classrooms and provides no benefit to students.

The unnecessary requirement for schools to produce additional improvement plans for the Commonwealth was enshrined by Labor under the Australian Education Act 2013. The Australian Government removed the need for schools to provide the plans in 2015 and 2016. The Government is continuing to talk to the states and territories, and non-government school authorities, regarding funding arrangements from 2018 onwards.

I am committed to holding the states and territories, and non-government schools systems, to account for the Commonwealth funding they receive. I will not tolerate our current record levels of Commonwealth funding being used to offset investments by the states.

The Australian Government has already amended the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to ensure clear accountability by all states and territories in how Commonwealth school funding is allocated. Every state and territory is required to confirm that Commonwealth funding has been used to support school education and to provide information about how much Commonwealth school funding is allocated to each school in their state.

In addition, for each government school, the states and territories are required to show how Commonwealth funding has been allocated to these schools using the state funding allocation model. It is astounding that Labor make claims as though they applied the so-called Gonski model in its purest form when they actually engaged in a series of inconsistent deals across different states and different systems that increased costs but weakened outcomes.

ACARA Update [October 2015]

Click here for the latest ACARA eNewsletter