LEA General Synod

On behalf of the LCA and Lutheran education, I wish to sincerely thank the following people for their attendance and participation at the 18th Synod of LCANZ.

- Dr Neville Highett – BLEA Chairman
- Mr David Bliss – LEQ Executive Director
- Mr Paul Weinert – LEVNT Director
- Mr John Proeve – LSA Executive Director
- Ms Heather Vogt – Principal, Endeavour Lutheran College (SA)
- Ms Angela Branford – Principal, Calvary Lutheran Primary School (SA)
- Mrs Janelle Turner – Principal, Peace Lutheran Primary School (Qld)
- Ms Jodie Hoff – Principal, LORDS (Qld)
- Mr Shane Jurecky – Principal, Good Shepherd Lutheran College (Vic)
- Mr Thomas Brennan – Principal, Sunshine Christian School (Vic)
- BLEA Board delegate Mr Steve Wilksch – Principal, Faith Lutheran College (SA)
- LCA congregation delegate Mrs Kathryn Krieg – Principal, St Jakobi Lutheran Primary School (SA)

The LEA stand, presence of Lutheran principals and directors, as well as the Lutheran education sessions (x3) were received most positively by the Synod delegates. Thank you to these people for committing time and effort for the LCA and Lutheran education.

Additionally, it was an honour and pleasure for me to launch Valerie Volk’s latest book *Bystanders* at Synod. Valerie has been a significant contributor to Lutheran education over the years.

Board for Lutheran Education Australia

Just prior to Synod, BLEA held its final meeting for 2016. The key agenda item was to approve the LEA strategic plan (2016-2018) which has taken the majority of 2015 to prepare.

BLEA would like to sincerely thank the regional council representatives, regional directors and LCA/LEA staff in the positive and deep collaboration to prepare this LEA strategic plan.

While a promotional and explanatory LEA strategic plan summary will be circulated to all Lutheran ECEs, schools, regional offices, district offices, LCA departments and other relevant groups in early 2016, the strategic plan has three strategic objectives, namely:

**THEME 1**: Strengthening Lutheran identity  
**THEME 2**: Enhancing and celebrating thriving learning communities  
**THEME 3**: Ensuring long term system sustainability

LEA and the regions look forward to further sharing details of this plan in 2016.

Finally, BLEA received the resignation of Board Director, Michael Paech, at the meeting. Michael has faithfully served on BLEA for 12 years, as the LSA representative, and has made frequent and positive contributions to both the Board and Lutheran education. On behalf of BLEA and Lutheran education, thank you sincerely Michael. May God continue to bless your service and leadership at St John’s, Highgate, SA.
LEA Director of Research and Development

As a result of the recently endorsed LEA strategic plan (2016-2018), LEA has begun advertising a new LEA position titled Director of Research and Development. This position is being advertised on Teachers on Net as follows http://www.teachers.on.net/view/238669 with the position description available from LEA (lea@lutheran.edu.au)

Please feel free to pass this onto any people you believe may be interested and suitably qualified. All enquiries and applications are to be directed to the LEA Executive Director (leadirector@lutheran.edu.au) with the closing date for applications Friday, 30 October 2015.

500 Protestant Schools – One World Towards the Reformation Jubilee 2017

From 15-17 October 2015 in Wittenberg, Germany, Dr Bronwyn Dolling (Principal, Pacific Lutheran College, Qld) and I will be attending the 500 Protestant schools – One World Towards the Reformation Jubilee 2017 conference. In 2011 I was fortunate to be able to attend the inaugural conference to begin planning for the worldwide Protestant Schools Reformation Celebration in 2017. This year it would appear that approximately 40 countries will be represented by their Lutheran (and other Protestant denominations) educational leaders.

Each country has been asked to also bring a female principal, hence Bronwyn’s attendance. In 2016 LEA will be circulating further information to Australian Lutheran schools as we near the 500th Jubilee Celebration of the Reformation in 2017.

Additionally I will also be representing LEA at the following two events in the coming days:
• Board for Asia Lutheran Education Association meeting in Hong Kong
• The 2015 ACU Education Executives Symposium on the Gold Coast, Qld

Leadership Development Program (LDP 6)

Applications are now open for LDP 6 which will commence in 2016. All principals received an email about this next round on Monday, 12 October 2015. All information can be obtained from the LEA website by using the following link http://www.lutheran.edu.au/school-professionals/leadership/leadership-development-program/.

Principals are strongly encouraged to promote this program to staff members.

Valuing Safe Communities (VSC)

Valuing Safe Communities (VSC): VSC is currently being revised to include online components with the new package ready for use by the beginning of the new school year. For your information the package is as follows.

• Initial training (for all staff new to Lutheran schools). Two modules will need to be completed:
  o An online module of about 90 minutes in length. This can be completed at the convenience of the staff member in a number of sittings.
  o A face-to-face workshop module of 60 minutes. Notes and activities for this (based on the current program) will be available for school trainers.

• Refresher course:
  o An online module of about 45 minutes for all staff who have completed the initial training. This module can be completed at the convenience of the staff member. No further workshop needs to be completed.
It is important to note that online access for staff will be determined by the accuracy of the data in LExiCON. While further information will follow on this, all schools are encouraged to ensure their data on LExiCON is current.

- **Volunteer and relief staff:**
  All volunteers and relief staff will be able to complete training through an online module of about 30-45 minutes.

The Initial training online module is expected to be in trial mode by the end of next week and once again I am seeking some schools to trial this online module. If you have staff that need to complete VSC it may be a good opportunity for them to begin the process. The completion of the workshop module will also need to occur – but that can be held off until early next year.

Please let me (shane.paterson@lutheran.edu.au) know if you are able to assist in the trialling of this module.

**Trainer update:** All existing trainers will need to be briefed on the updated materials. This short session will be held in the middle of November via ‘Google Hangout’ (or the like). Details will be distributed in the coming weeks.

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**LEA Business Manager**

[Stephen Kroker]

**LEA Lutheran Education Transfer Fund**

For schools who are members of the transfer fund please notify us (LEA@Lutheran.edu.au) of any new permanent staff appointment for next year as soon as possible. LEA will organise for the removalist companies to contact the staff member for quotation purposes. There is no longer any need for the staff member to chase up their own quotes.

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**LEA federal news**

**Australia’s Minister for Education and Training**

[20 September 2015]

Senator The Hon Simon Birmingham, Liberal Senator for South Australia, issued the following media statement following his appointment as federal Minister for Education and Training:

_I thank the Prime Minister for the honour to serve as Australia’s Minister for Education and Training. Australia enjoys one of the best education and training systems in the world and it is an enormous privilege to continue the government’s work to make our great system even better.

Since December last year I have greatly enjoyed serving as the Minister responsible for vocational education and training, pursuing reforms focussed on lifting the quality of training, it’s relevance to modern jobs and the status of VET.

Ensuring Australians have the right skills for the jobs of today, and the jobs of tomorrow, is essential if we are to deliver on the Prime Minister’s vision for our nation to take maximum advantage of the opportunities created by economic and technological change and global innovation.

I am committed to ensuring that from early learning through to universities and vocational education and training, our education system equips all Australians with the opportunity to be their best, do their best and make our country its best.

I look forward to building on Christopher Pyne’s unstinting efforts to ensure Australia has the highest standards of education at all levels, and to working collaboratively with education stakeholders to develop policy and to build broad support for any future reforms we need to undertake.

As a South Australian I also note the increase in our state’s representation in both the Cabinet and the full ministry, which I am sure will be welcomed by many South Australians given the high unemployment and particular economic challenges our state faces._

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**ISCA congratulates new ministers**

[20 September 2015]

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has welcomed the appointments of Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham as Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP as Minister for Vocational Education and Skills and Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck as Minister for Tourism and International Education. Read the full media release
My School website improvements agreed
[18 September 2015]
A raft of improvements aimed at making the My School website even more user
friendly have been agreed at today’s Education Council meeting. The Minister for
Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, said the upgrades would
ensure My School continues to be a valuable online education resource for parents,
teachers and schools. [See ACARA communique below]  Read the full media release

A new national curriculum from 2016
[18 September 2015]
Significant changes to the national curriculum from Foundation to Year 10 have been
endorsed today by the Education Council, delivering on one of the Coalition
Government’s key commitments. The changes made to the Australian Curriculum by
the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) were in
response to the Review of the Australian Curriculum initiated last year conducted by
Professor Ken Wiltshire and Dr Kevin Donnelly. [See ACARA communique below]
Read the full media release

ACARA communiqué re Australian Curriculum and My School
[18 September 2015]
Australian Curriculum
The Education Council has endorsed Australian Curriculum in eight learning areas.
The Australian Curriculum endorsed today includes:
• The revised Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science,
  Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies and Health and Physical
  Education.
• Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Languages for Arabic, Chinese, French,
  German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese.
• Australian Curriculum: Work Studies, Years 9–10.

My School website
ACARA is working with federal, state and territory education authorities to ensure My
School is user-friendly and fair and continues to be an important resource for parents,
principals and policy makers. The improvements agreed to today include a
new measure of student attendance to be added to the My School website by end
2015; and a new My School landing page with concise and accessible information
and a review of standard text on all pages, to ensure it is readily understandable by a
range of audiences for My School 2016.  Read the full communique

Education Council communiqué
[18 September 2015]
The Education Council today held its third meeting of the year via video link. Ministers
discussed a range of key policy issues and progressed significant education reforms.
Ministers discussed: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education
Strategy; STEM Education; Online assessment; Review of ACARA; Students at risk
of radicalisation; Initial Teacher Education; Improvements to My School; Improving
access to the Australian Curriculum for parents; Australian Curriculum: Foundation to
Year 10; Improving access to the Australian Curriculum for students with disability;
Reducing domestic violence.
Read the full communique

Historic teacher education reforms to be implemented
[18 September 2015]
Key recommendations of the Coalition’s Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory
Group report that will transform teacher education in Australia have been
unanimously adopted today by the Education Council. This agreement is further
progress on another significant commitment of the Coalition Government in
education. Read the full media release