School System Funding – 2016 & beyond

In the near future, LEA will be meeting with Simon Birmingham, Federal Minister for Education, as well as the National Catholic Education Commission Executive Director Ross Fox, also ISCA leaders, Colette Colman, Acting Executive Director and Barry Wallett, Deputy Executive Director.

The following funding principles are contained on the LEA website http://www.lutheran.edu.au/our-schools/funding-for-lutheran-schools/ and additionally, Stephen Kroker and I have prepared Lutheran education key focus areas for 2016 election.

LEA funding principles

• provide a basic funding entitlement for all Lutheran schools that keeps pace with the costs in government schools and ensures each Australian student receives a world class education
• provide additional needs-based funding for schools, families and students who are disadvantaged because of factors such as indigeneity, location, disability and socioeconomic / cultural disadvantage
• provide families affordability and accessibility in their choice of schools in a way that encourages diversity, yet does not penalise private funding contributions to education
• be transparent for all Australian systems, schools, communities and students, keeping the needs of each in balance for proper planning and management
• ensure that all systems and school authorities have equal access to recurrent, targeted, capital and other funds through transparent and nationally recognised funding protocols
• allow systems and school authorities to effectively and confidently operate schools in a stable and transparent environment with predictable and annual funding indexation
• expect systems and schools to be accountable and to report on agreed national standards and outcomes using fully comparable and transparent data, whilst given schools the freedom to be innovative and creative as they enhance teaching and learning
• affirm a student focus on being at the heart of schooling through quality teaching and learning, recognising that well trained and formed teachers, excellent resources and well planned facilities allow a world class education to be achieved
• plan for an ongoing proactive approach to, and government-school dialogue for, future funding and development of schools to meet the needs of a growing Australian population
• be considered by governments that listen to school principals regularly when gauging the needs of Australian schools and how to meet the needs of a growing Australian population
• be considered by governments that listen to school principals regularly when gauging the needs of Australian schools and how to improve teaching and learning for the benefit of Australia

Key focus areas for 2016 election

• assurance of sustainable indexation of school funding for all schools to reflect real school cost increases
• provide a solution to the correct funding model to correct the different state/territory transition rates and provide equity in commonwealth funding regardless of state/territory
• provide adequate and consistent funding for all students with disabilities, regardless of school sector
• provide a long term sustainable funding plan for Indigenous boarding
• alignment of states and territories in regard to consistent funding of all schools

Please consider these matters. Your feedback suggestions and discussion with us is most welcome.

Sad news
LEA, together with all involved with Lutheran education, extend our Christian sympathy to our LEA Executive Assistant, Joan Scriven, on the recent passing of Joan’s husband, Jeff.

The LEA team, as well as numerous other Lutheran education and church people will attend Jeff’s funeral which will be held on Friday 30th October 2015 at 1pm at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 121 Military Rd, Semaphore SA.

May God bless and comfort Joan, her son Peter, and their extended family as they mourn the loss of Jeff.

ACU Education Executives Symposium
At the recent ACU Education Executives Symposium on the Gold Coast, the theme of the intensive three day workshop was ‘complexity and transformation in education’.

Keynote topics included:

• A leader’s framework for decision making
• Building transformational change capability
• Capturing and using organisation-wide knowledge
• Integrating and synthesising content and knowledge

Some of the learning from the Symposium has reinforced BLEA’s endorsement of the LEA strategic plan (2016-2018) which has seen the recent advertising of a new LEA position ‘Director of Research and Development’ and the LEA strategic plan’s three key themes, namely:

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

Additionally, the Symposium provided an ideal opportunity for Lutheran education to further develop positive and ongoing relationships with numerous Catholic education and other colleagues, new and old, including:

• Mr Ross Fox – Executive Director, National Catholic Education
• Dr Christopher Branson – National Head of Education Commission, ACU
• Dr David Giles – Dean, School of Education, Flinders University
• Seven Catholic diocesans (regional and state) Executive Directors

Ross Fox and his Catholic colleagues, together with Stephen Kroker and I, will continue Catholic/Lutheran system funding dialogue and our approaches to the new Minister for Education, Simon Birmingham, as well as system funding needs in the weeks ahead.
500 Protestant Schools – One World Towards the Reformation Jubilee 2017

Last week, Dr Bronwyn Dolling and I returned from Wittenberg, Germany, after attending this conference. About 80 delegates from over 30 countries attended and focussed on planning for a worldwide Protestant and Lutheran schools’ celebrations in 2017 commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Bronwyn and I were not only able to discuss 2017 worldwide and Australian celebration possibilities, but also the ACLE 5 program, which is in the hands of the ACLE 5 Planning Committee (LEA and LSA).

Further details on 2017 Reformation Australian Lutheran school celebrations will be developed and discussed, with information released during 2016.

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)

AITSL eNews

read the latest AITSL eNews here

LEA Business Manager
[Stephen Kroker]

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.

LEA Assistant Director: Formation
[Anne Dohnt]

Leadership and formation framework

The LEA leadership and formation framework has been trialed by school leaders, teachers and staff across the regions. The feedback is coming in and will be vital in ensuring that the framework speaks into the different contexts of Lutheran education. If you have been involved in the trial, please ensure your feedback is emailed or mailed to anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au by Friday 6th November.

Service learning

Next year we will offer the service learning study tour again and would like expressions of interest so we can ensure we meet the demand in schools. The feedback from the study tour conducted by LEA this year, suggests that it is ideal for schools to send at least two staff so that conversations and reflections can occur that connect learning to the school’s context. If you would like to participate in a study tour next year, please email anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au.

The service learning resources (http://www.lutheran.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/service-learning/) have been updated and we are currently looking for school stories that can provide practical examples of the ways schools are
embedding a service learning culture and pedagogy. Please email lea@lutheran.edu.au with your story.

Worship

Worship in Lutheran schools is central to the faith life of the community. It is a time for staff and students to hear about God’s amazing love for each person and to celebrate and respond to this love as a community. We are currently developing resources for the eLibrary and would appreciate good quality videos and photos of worship in your school so that we can celebrate the diversity of worship in Lutheran education.

eLibrary

Are you looking for inspiration? The eLibrary contains a range of resources (videos, links, ideas and examples) to support Christian Studies, worship, staff spirituality and ministry personnel. It is a place where the knowledge and experience of the educators in Lutheran schools and early childhood sites can be shared. We have included a new section in the eLibrary where you can submit resources or simply email LEA (lea@lutheran.edu.au). Please share your Christian Studies units, Christian Studies staff meeting PPTs or resources, a clip, song, liturgy, prayer you used for class or whole school worship, a staff devotion or reflection idea or resource or a resource you use for pastoral care or well-being. The eLibrary will be as rich as we make it through our sharing and collaboration.

LEA federal news

ACEL 2016 Early Childhood Conference

2016 Early Childhood Conference
Leading in the Early Years in a New Era
28th – 29th July, Brisbane Convention & Entertainment Centre

The ACEL Early Childhood Conference has three main themes to be explored during this two day event

- Leadership and management in early childhood settings
- Change management in early childhood settings
• Building collaborative and purposeful relationships

**Keynote Speakers**

• **Dr John Medina** - Dr John J. Medina is a developmental molecular biologist focused on the genes involved in human brain development and the genetics of psychiatric disorders.

• **Dr Jillian Rodd-Gray** - Dr Jillian Rodd was formerly a university academic specialising in early childhood care and education who now works as an independent educational consultant.

• **Professor Edward Melhuish** - Edward Melhuish is Professor of Human Development at the University of Oxford, and a visiting professor at the University of Wollongong.

More to be announced.

**Learn more & Registration**

• Click here to learn more about the Conference on the web.

• Click here to register online or click here to download the flyer.

**ACARA Updated Australian Curriculum Website**

[27 October 2015]

The updated Australian Curriculum website (version 8.0) has been released today.

Over the past 12 months, ACARA has reviewed and revised the F–10 curriculum and the way it is presented on the Australian Curriculum website. The updated website includes the improved Australian Curriculum endorsed by the Education Council on 18 September 2015. See our news item about the improvements to the curriculum.

All learning areas and subjects that were previously listed on the Australian Curriculum as ‘available for use, subject to endorsement’ are now endorsed.

The previous version (version 7.5) of the Australian Curriculum will continue to be available until the end of 2016 to allow for a transition period. The homepage of the Australian Curriculum website will allow users to choose which version they wish to access.

The implementation of endorsed curriculum is a matter for state and territory school and curriculum authorities – they decide when and how the Australian Curriculum is implemented in their state or territory.

Find information on the changes to the Australian Curriculum on the updated Australian Curriculum website: 'What’s changed in version 8.0'.

*Note: The Australian Curriculum app will continue to deliver version 7.5 of the curriculum. Version 8.0 has been designed to be accessible for using mobile devices. There are no plans at this stage to upgrade the Australian Curriculum app. Printing of the Australian Curriculum will initially be restricted to PDF. During November 2015, MS Word-enabled printing will also become available.*