2016 welcome
The LEA team extends our best wishes and prayerful support to all Lutheran school principals, teaching and support staff for the 2016 school year.

Our 2016 key focus areas will include:

- **Growing deep rollout**
  In cooperation with the regions, LEA looks forward to supporting the rollout process for this significant and widely collaborated LEA leadership and formation framework. Please check your respective regional newsletters for advice on the rollout sessions for you and your school leadership team.

- **Federal election**
  From recent press releases and media commentary, both the federal Coalition and Labor Party have outlined their intentions for education funding beyond 2017. Stephen Kroker, LEA Business Manager, and I have requested meetings with Simon Birmingham and Kate Ellis in an endeavour to learn specific details about post 2017 funding for Lutheran schools and systems. LEA will provide regular updates to Lutheran schools via LEA News and expects to provide further details at the 2016 National Lutheran Principals Conference. These details can be shared with your respective school communities.

  **Senator, the Hon Simon Birmingham**, Minister for Education and Training issued a media release [4 January 2016] *Turnbull government committed to schools funding*

  **The Hon Kate Ellis MP**, Shadow Minister for Education, Shadow Minister for Early Childhood, Member for Adelaide, issued a media release [28 January 2016] *Every school, every child better off with labor's your child. our future plan for Australian education*

**LEA paper  People in same sex relationships within Australian Lutheran school communities**
Next week a copy of this LEA paper will be posted to all Lutheran school principals and council chairs. A covering letter with the paper provides explanation as to how each Lutheran school may consider these matters in your context.

**LEA strategic plan (2016-2018)**
Later in February LEA will distribute a summary brochure of the LEA strategic plan to all Lutheran schools. The three themes are as follows:
- **Theme 1: Strengthening Lutheran identity**
- **Theme 2: Enhancing and celebrating thriving learning communities**
- **Theme 3: Ensuring long-term system sustainability**

The LEA presentation at the 2016 National Lutheran Principals Conference will provide more details.
School education: a quick guide to key internet links

Marilyn Harrington
Social Policy Section

This Quick Guide provides links to:

- information about the policy and administrative framework for school education
- individual school information
- school funding information
- statistics—including student achievement statistics and other international statistics
- Indigenous education
- Australian organisations
- international organisations and overseas education departments and
- state and territory government websites.

Policy and administrative framework

- The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians agreed to by the Australian Government and state and territory government education ministers in 2008, sets the goals and directions for Australian schooling.
- The Department of Education and Training (DET) has major responsibility for Australian Government school education programs.
- Australian Government school education programs and funding for Indigenous school students are administered by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, which has primary responsibility for Indigenous affairs, and the Department of Education and Training.
- The Education Council is a standing council of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). Its membership includes Australian Government and state and territory government education ministers and New Zealand ministers with portfolio responsibility for school education and/or early childhood. It replaced the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) from 1 July 2014. The Education Council’s website includes an archive of the publications and communiques of the SCSEEC and its predecessors.
- The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the development of the Australian (national) curriculum, the National Assessment Program, which includes NAPLAN, and national data collection and reporting.
• The annual Report on Government Services, published by the Productivity Commission, provides an overview of school education in Australia, key statistics and funding information.

• The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) provides ‘national leadership for the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments in promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership’. Its work includes the development of professional standards, national registration and professional learning for teachers and initial teacher education reform.

Information about schools

• School term dates

• The My School website, managed by ACARA, provides information about all schools in Australia and includes key statistical data, financial information and school-wide National Assessment Program (literacy and numeracy) results.

• M Harrington, Schools by Commonwealth Electoral Division, 2014, Parliamentary Library, Canberra, 2015. The information for individual schools includes school name, school type and address. For non-government schools, campus information and affiliation are also provided. The website includes a list of school enrolments by electorate.

School funding

• Australian Government funding for schools is provided under the Australian Education Act 2013 and the Australian Education Regulation 2013. The Guide to the Australian Education Act 2013 provides a detailed explanation of the legislation.

• The legislation is in accord with COAG’s National Education Reform Agreement.

• M Harrington, Funding the National Plan for School Improvement: an explanation, Background note, Parliamentary Library, Canberra, 26 June 2013. Provides an explanation of the then proposed school funding arrangements for 2014.

Australian Government funding for schools prior to 2014

• M Harrington, Australian Government funding for schools explained: 2013 update, Background note, Parliamentary Library, Canberra, 8 March 2013. Explains the previous funding arrangements and includes a brief history of Australian Government funding for schools and historic funding and statistical information.

• The Report on Financial Assistance Granted to each State in Respect of (year). This annual report provided funding information by program, and a summary of general recurrent and capital grants for individual non-government schools, under the previous systems of Australian Government funding for schools. From 2009, summary information about government schools was not included because of changes in school funding arrangements introduced in 2009. The latest edition is for 2013 (this may be the last issues under this title).

Statistics

• Schools, Australia, published annually by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

• The National Report on Schooling in Australia provides an overview of school education in Australia, key statistics and funding information. Earlier editions (1989–2008) were published by the MCEECYDA and its predecessors.

• The annual Report on Government Services provides an overview of school education in Australia, key statistics and funding information.

Student achievement statistics

• The National Assessment Program (NAP), managed by ACARA, includes the annual National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and three-yearly NAP Sample Assessments in Science Literacy, Civics and Citizenship, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy.

• The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a three-yearly international survey of the reading, mathematics and science capabilities of 15-year-old students.
• **Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study (PIRLS)**, a project of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), is a five-yearly international assessment of the reading ability of students in Year 4.

• The **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)**, an IEA project, is a four-yearly international survey of the mathematics and science achievement of students in Year 4 and Year 8.

**Other international statistics**

• **Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators** provides annual comparative data on the education systems of member and partner countries of the OECD.

• **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics**

**Indigenous education**

• The **National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap)** established the education targets for Indigenous Australians. Annual performance assessments for the agreed targets from the [2013–14 edition](#) are produced by the Productivity Commission (previous assessments were prepared by the COAG Reform Council).

• Australian Government school education programs and funding for Indigenous school students are administered by the *Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet* (DPMC), which has primary responsibility for Indigenous affairs, and the *Department of Education and Training*.

• The DPMC’s **Indigenous school education programs** are provided under the **Indigenous Advancement Strategy**. The **Children and schooling component of the National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment** also provides funding for Indigenous school education programs.

• The Productivity Commission (PC) publishes the biannual report, **Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage**. This report provides information across a range of areas, including education. From 2016, the PC’s annual **Report on Government Services** will feature separate Indigenous ‘data tabs’ (this information was previously collated in a separate Indigenous compendium).

**Australian organisations**

The following are some educational organisations that represent the interests of school education stakeholders and/or undertake research relating to school education. The **Australasian Education Directory** provides a comprehensive listing of educational organisations.

• **Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia**

• **Australian Council for Educational Research**

• **Australian Council of Deans of Education**

• **Australian Council of State School Organisations**

• **Australian Education Union**

• **Australian Parents Council**—represents the interests of parents of non-government school students.

• **Australian Primary Principals Association**

• **Australian Secondary Principals Association**

• **Independent Education Union of Australia**

• **Independent Schools Council of Australia**

• **National Catholic Education Commission**

• **Save Our Schools**—a public education advocacy organisation.

**International organisations and overseas education departments**

**International organisations**

• The European Community’s **Eurydice Network** provides information and analysis of European education systems and policies.
• Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)—Early Childhood and Schools
• United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – Education for the 21st Century

Overseas education departments
• Canada—the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada is an intergovernmental body of the Canadian provincial ministers of education. It provides links to the education ministries of each Canadian province. Note: there is no federal education department.
• Great Britain—Department for Education
• New Zealand—Ministry of Education
• Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development—list of education ministries of member countries. Note: not all information will be in English.
• United States:
  – federal Department of Education—includes links to state education departments.
  – Education Commission of the States provides access to information about federal and state education policies, legislation, research and statistics.

State and territory government websites

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
• Find an ACT school
• Education and Training Directorate
• ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies

New South Wales (NSW)
• Find a NSW government school
• Find a NSW non-government school
• Department of Education
• Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES)—includes responsibility for non-government schools.

Northern Territory (NT)
• Find a NT school
• Department of Education
• Northern Territory Board of Studies

Queensland
• Find a Queensland school
• Department of Education and Training
• Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

South Australia (SA)
• Find a SA school
• Department for Education and Child Development
• South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE Board of SA)

Tasmania
• Find a Tasmanian school
• Department of Education
• Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification
Victoria
- Find a Victorian school
- Department of Education and Training
- Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Western Australia (WA)
- Find a WA government school
- Find a WA non-government school
- Department of Education
- Department of Education Services—has responsibility for non-government schools.
- School Curriculum and Standards Authority

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LEA formation resources
Last week, via LPANet, all principals will have received advice about a number of formation resources available to you and your staff on the LEA website. Please feel free to contact Anne Dohnt, LEA Director of Formation, for further information or support.

LEA team
The 2016 LEA team is made up of:

Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
LEADirector@lutheran.edu.au

Anne Dohnt
Director of Formation
anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au

Shane Paterson
Assistant Director: Leadership
shane.paterson@lutheran.edu.au
(until 24 March 2016)

Kaye Mathwin-Cox
Director of Research and Development
kaye.mathwin-cox@lutheran.edu.au
(from 2 May 2016)

Stephen Kroker
Business Manager
stephen.kroker@lutheran.edu.au

Joan Scriven
Executive Assistant
joan.scriven@lutheran.edu.au
Tanya Wilson / Kate Bourne / Lyn Nichol
Administration Assistants (job share)
lea@lutheran.edu.au

Support staff

We look forward to serving you and all Lutheran schools in 2016. May God bless you as you lead and serve.
LEA Service Retirement Awards

Congratulations to the 32 recipients of an LEA Service Retirement Award during 2015. In total these staff members served Lutheran education for 940 years. Recipients and their years of service are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years of Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Dawes</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>Ruth Lambert</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td>Gregory Kretschmer</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Loyd Fyffe</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td>David Garwood</td>
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<td>Cynthia Hine</td>
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<td>Christina Morrow</td>
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<td>Jean McGowan</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>Harry Dewar</td>
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<td>Marilyn Jonas</td>
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<td>Chaseley Lamerton</td>
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<td>Merril Van Asperen</td>
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<td>Louise Mason</td>
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<td>Neil Borgas</td>
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<td>Rod Waye</td>
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<td>Margie Jacoby</td>
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<td>Ian Marks</td>
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<td>Sue De Biasi</td>
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<td>Mavis Herbert</td>
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<td>Jane Trewern</td>
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<td>Neil Lutz</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Garrett</td>
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<td>Allan Dallas</td>
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<td>Vanessa Dewar</td>
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<td>Peter Logan</td>
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<td>Peita Frew</td>
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<td>Geoff Lienert</td>
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<td>Cherylynn Perryman</td>
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<td>Greg John</td>
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<td>Robert Albrecht</td>
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<td>Kerwyn Kleinschmidt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane Blenkiron</td>
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LEA Assistant Director: Leadership
[Shane Paterson]

VSC3 has now rolled out across all schools. To this point over 1000 staff or volunteers have taken the opportunity to complete an online module. To further enhance the roll out and to support all users I would appreciate any comments that you may have.

Email Shane.paterson@lutheran.edu.au

A number of points to consider:
- Volunteers and relief staff completion of the online module is not recorded centrally. Proof of completion is only via the certificate which is generated from the iLearn system and schools will need to implement their own systems for recording this.
- Schools are encouraged to develop / maintain complementary face-to-face sessions with this cohort of people
- Staff need to have completed VSC2 and have this recorded in LExICON to be identified as needing to complete the refresher online module. There are a number of schools that have not recorded staff completion of VSC2 in LExICON and these staff are being identified as being required to complete the two initial modules. You can determine this by generating a VSC report from LExICON. If
staff completion of VSC2 is not recorded (and it has occurred) please email me your staff record of training and we will enter this for you – the ability for schools to do this has now finished.

- Completion of the initial and refresher online modules is recorded centrally at a server off site. LEA will receive a CSV file which will be uploaded regularly into LExICON. For terms one and two this will occur on a weekly basis.
- Completion of the face-face module is to be recorded into LExICON by the school trainer / school LExICON administrator.

Thankyou for your support and patience in the roll out of this program. The early feedback has been certainly very positive.

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**Pathways: spiritual focus** was developed for staff who are in their first year in Lutheran education. It is introductory in nature and explores spirituality generally before considering some key Christian beliefs. Understanding the structure and approach of **Pathways: spiritual focus** is critical for its success in the school. It is not a leader-directed program of instruction which is trying to pass on particular deep theological content. It is intended to create a supportive, open and accepting environment in which sharing and growing can occur. The main activities in the workshops include reflecting, sharing, responding, praying, using processes which are appropriate for adult learners.

Please take time to read the introduction where the content, structure and approach are described as this may guide the selection of facilitator within your school. [http://www.lutheran.edu.au/school-professionals/accreditation/pathways/pathways-spiritual-focus/](http://www.lutheran.edu.au/school-professionals/accreditation/pathways/pathways-spiritual-focus/)

If you have any questions about the delivery of **Pathways: spiritual focus** please contact the following people in your regional office.

- LEO Meg Noack 07 3511 4059
- LEVNT Neville Grieger, Liz Pietsch 03 9236 1250
- LSA Stuart Traeger 08 8267 5565

If you have any questions about the resources and their intent, please contact Anne Dohnt at the LEA office ([anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au](mailto:anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au) or 08 8267 7318).

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**Welcoming new staff and setting them up for success**

As you welcome new staff into your community, I thought it might be helpful to compile a 'start-up list' of resources from the eLibrary. Please make time to show staff the eLibrary and introduce them to people who can help them if they have questions. A start-up list could include:

- **worship** – staff devotion, class or care group devotions, whole school worship  [http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/elibrary/worship-resources/](http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/elibrary/worship-resources/)
- **prayer** in your community, classes and as a staff  [http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/elibrary/worship-resources/whole-school-worship/prayer/](http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/elibrary/worship-resources/whole-school-worship/prayer/)
- **Christian Studies** as a subject in the curriculum that has student learning outcomes and is assessed  [http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/elibrary/christian-studies/](http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/elibrary/christian-studies/)

**Service learning**

School business managers and bursars please note:
The payout rate has been declared for claims for schools that are members of the Sick Leave Emergency Fund. Claims for 2015 will be paid at $355 per day. The claim form is now available on the LEA website. [Click here to access]

LEA federal news

School education: a quick guide to key internet links
[1 February 2016]
Parliamentary Library Research Report:
School education: a quick guide to key internet links is included at the end of this edition of LEA news

Labor’s commitment to school funding certainty welcome
[ISCA media release 28 January 2016]
Today’s announcement by Opposition Leader, the Hon Bill Shorten MP and Shadow Minister for Education, the Hon Kate Ellis MP that Labor will commit to continuing Commonwealth school funding growth towards the full implementation of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) funding model is welcomed by the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA). ISCA Executive Director, Ms Colette Colman said that 'the Commonwealth Government is a significant funding partner for Independent schools, along with state and territory governments and parents and school communities. Stability and predictability in Commonwealth Government funding support for Independent schools past 2017 is essential to allow schools to plan and deliver their education programs to students consistently and ensure the ongoing provision of quality schooling.' [Read the full media release]

AISTL e News
[28 January 2016]
[Click here to read the latest AITSL news]

What does the economic downturn mean for private schools?
[The educator, 27 January 2016]
With the Australian economy slowing, private schools may start to feel the squeeze by frugal parents. A taste of what might be coming can be seen in Western Australia where, for the first time in 30 years, public school growth has outstripped that of independent schools. Between 2009 and 2014, WA public schools experienced the biggest spike in student enrolment market share in the country, up 0.4%. Valerie Gould, Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) executive director, told The Educator that in recognition of the economic climate, the state’s independent schools have tried to keep fee increases low. [Read the full article]

New STEM resource for principals announced
[The educator, 21 January 2016]
School principals will soon have more than 250 STEM programs to help students excel in this economically vital area. The new resource is part of the STEM Skills Partnerships program and follows growing interest from the business community and STEM professionals in sharing the task of building the future economy. Yesterday’s release of the first national STEM Program Index (SPI 2016) was compiled by the Australian Industry Group (AIG) and announced by Australia’s chief scientist, Ian Chubb. SPI 2016 is an accessible guide to business, university, government and community-led initiatives putting students on the fast track to the future. It includes in-class, after school, holiday, residential and online activities, catering to a wide and growing range of students. [Read the full article]
2016 ISCA - AHISA National Education Forum
Tuesday 15 March 2016, The Hotel Realm, Canberra
School leaders and staff interested in attending this forum can access further information on the ISCA website or register at: https://ep.ozaccom.com.au/public/AHISAEDU16/welcome.aspx.

Appointment of Dr Fiona Meuller, Director Curriculum, ACARA
[22 December 2015]
Communication received last December from ACARA advised that Dr Fiona Mueller accepted the position of Director, Curriculum at ACARA. Fiona is currently A/Head of College, ANU College, at the Australian National University. A teacher of English, History, French, German and Italian, Fiona has lengthy experience in primary, secondary and tertiary settings, both here and overseas. Previous places of employment include the Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW) and the NSW Board of Studies. ACARA believe that Fiona's appointment will ensure the continuation of strong curriculum and pedagogical leadership and intellectual energy in the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum for students in Foundation to Year 12.

My School to be updated with 2015 term 3 student attendance data
[ACARA advice, 17 December 2015]
The My School website has been updated with 2015 Term 3 student attendance data. Attendance data are reported on all students, Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students. In addition to average school attendance rate, also reported is the proportion of students in a school attending 90 percent or more of the time. Data are suppressed where students numbers are less than, or equal to, five students. This update follows on from the release of Semester 1 student attendance data in November 2015. Attendance data reporting is a COAG (the Council of Australian Governments) initiative to help improve learning outcomes for Indigenous students by monitoring their attendance. Data are reported twice a year, for Semester 1 (Terms 1 and 2) and Term 3.

Update to the Australian Curriculum website
[ACARA advice, 17 December 2015]
Following endorsement by the Education Council last week, ACARA has released further language curricula as part of the Australian Curriculum: Languages. The Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages and Hindi and Turkish curricula have now been published on the Australian Curriculum website [link: www.australiancurriculum.edu.au]. In the Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages paper, a framework for Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages was identified as necessary for development. The framework builds on existing language frameworks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, already used in some states and territories. Read the full media release.