Safe schools do better

Principals will have noticed the current debate on the federal government’s decision to review the Safe schools anti-bullying program which is aimed at addressing the bullying of LGBT1 students (refer: http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/the-responsible-thing-malcolm-turnbull-defends-safe-schools-review-20160301-gn7c65.html)


Principals will also be aware of the recently circulated LEA paper People in same sex relationships within Australian Lutheran school communities which has been sent to all principals and council chairs for discussion and use as deemed appropriate for each Lutheran school.

In relation to the Safe schools do better program (www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au) LEA offers the following statement:

Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) is pleased that all Lutheran schools have in place appropriate and positive anti-bullying policies and programs to ensure Lutheran schools are safe and inclusive places for all.

LEA awaits the results of the Federal Government’s review of the Safe Schools program (www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au) and remains committed to supporting all Australian Lutheran schools in their ongoing focus to be welcoming and safe places of engagement and learning for all.

Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia

Travel support and advice

In recent weeks there have been a number of bombings in Turkey. This has resulted in the upscaling of DEFAT warnings and LEA / LPA consulting with LCA Insurance on the upcoming LEA / LPA Footsteps of Paul study tour to Turkey and Greece. The result has been the cancellation of the Turkey section of the tour and a re-routing of the Greek sector. The purpose of informing all Lutheran school principals of these tour changes is to request each principal to be very mindful of the significant challenges and risks that overseas (and domestic) tours present for the staff and students of our schools.

In the past decade, ALWS has seen a dramatic shift from previously providing support and aid to overseas communities where 80% of the need was caused by famine, flood, tsunami, earthquake or other natural disasters (and only 20% attributed to crises of conflict and war) to recent years where approximately 80% of
ALWS support and focus now is going to communities affected by conflict and war, thus causing enormous suffering, displacement and hardship.

LEA encourages all Lutheran school principals, if and when planning and considering overseas school activities / trips / involvement, to consider the following support:

**LCA Insurance**
The LCA Insurance Fund provides Corporate Travel insurance for any organised and authorised Lutheran education travel both within Australia and overseas. When arranging travel it is important to have information at your disposal so that all stakeholders are fully aware of the cover. The LCA Insurance Fund’s website has details of the cover automatically provided at no cost to the school (See: [http://www.lcainsurance.org.au/policies/travel](http://www.lcainsurance.org.au/policies/travel)). The website also mentions the Emergency Medical & Travel Assistance provided by the insurer ACE in the event of a major sickness or injury overseas (further details available from LCA Insurance).

When travelling overseas it is important to carry out an assessment on the participants to determine if they have any medical, physical or mental condition and then provide a strategy to deal with the issues appropriately. Please note that pre-existing medical conditions do not preclude travel under the Corporate Travel policy. It is also very important to ensure that the travel is well researched so that risks to participants are minimised. Part of the research should be to refer to the current DEFAT travel warnings. The LCA Insurance Fund, together with its Broker Aon Risk Solutions, are happy to help with your travel queries.

**ALWS**
LEA welcomes the growing interest in service trips overseas, however strongly encourages you to first contact Australian Lutheran World Service for guidance on risk management, cross-cultural practice, safety and security, and so on. ALWS has been conducting overseas service learning trips for over a decade now, and has developed a package of resources to help. Please feel free to get in touch with ALWS Community Action Officer, Vicki Gollasch, at vickig@alws.org.au, for more information.

**LCA International Mission**
The LCA, through LCA International Mission, has wide experience and long established partnerships with overseas Lutheran churches particularly in the Asia Pacific region. LCA International Mission is able to facilitate connections for you and your Lutheran school community which will help you to fulfil service learning opportunities for your students. You’re invited to talk to Glenice Hartwich (LCA International Mission) to explore possibilities for sustainable service-learning partnership. As a Lutheran school serving overseas, you represent the Lutheran Church of Australia – your actions and activities reflect on the LCA (whether you like it or not!) and on these international partnerships. Avoid risks and damaged reputations through consultation with our LCA International Mission office.

*Contact Glenice Hartwich, Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission*
+61 8 8267 7316 | +61 8 8267 7334 | M +61 428 709 891
[glenice.hartwich@lca.org.au](mailto:glenice.hartwich@lca.org.au) | [www.lca.org.au/international-mission](http://www.lca.org.au/international-mission)

**Future LEA conferences and tours**
For your information and possible professional learning considerations, LEA and LPA are planning the following activities:

**2016:**
- National Lutheran Principals Conference at Cairns 15-18 May
- ALEA Conference at Concordia Hanoi Vietnam 15-18 September (*)
- LEA (USA) Convocation at Grand Rapids Michigan 13-15 October (*)
- Luther 500th Anniversary Conference in Melbourne 28 June-3 July

**2017:**
- National School Pastor / Chaplains Conference (venue and date TBA)
- ACLE 5 in Adelaide 5-7 July

**2018:**
- LEA / LPA Lutherlands Germany study tour (May)
National Lutheran Principals Conference (venue and date TBA)
LCA General Synod (venue and date TBA)
(*) LEA provides support for three principals to attend

If you would like to attend the 2016 Asia Lutheran Education Conference, 15-18 September, at Concordia Hanio Vietnam, please register your interest with your regional director asap. Details are available at: https://asialutheraneducation.org/conference/

If you would like to attend the 2016 Lutheran Education Association (USA) Convocation in Grand Rapids Michigan, 13-15 October, please register your interest with your regional director asap. Details are available at: http://www.lea.org/Events/2016LEAConvocation.aspx

LEA will provide financial support to six principals, three per conference, to attend these international conferences.

Lutheran Tract Mission (LTM)
As we enter the church season of Lent and Easter school staff may like to access the wealth of resources (leaflets, cards, postcards and bookmarks) from LTM. New Easter tracts include:

- Jesus is Risen – Easter greeting leaflet large print
- Give glory to the risen Christ – Easter greeting leaflet
- Were you there when they crucified my Lord – Leaflet remembering Christ’s suffering
- Happy Easter – we have new life – text card
- Easter Peace – text card
- Jesus lives – bookmark
- Celebrate Easter – bookmark

Other new resources include:

- We all follow Someone – revamp of a popular tract
- Perfect Promises – revamp of a favourite tract full of Bible verses (large print)
- The Lord my Helper – revamp of a tract full of the grace of God (large print)
- One Day at a Time – revamp of a favourite tract for each day of the week
- Confident Hope – God helps us in all circumstances; in that we have Hope (large print)
- Joyful in Hope – leaflet offering hope in Christ’s continued presence (large print)

Tract holders are also now available. Clear acrylic tract holders in various sizes are available from the LLL (can be viewed in the LLL foyer). Click here to access further information about the range of LTM resources including the new Lent / Easter tracts.

ACCEPTS Workshop 9 April 2016

CHRIST WELCOMES ALL
Saturday 9 April 2016
9 am to 9 pm
Immanuel College Adelaide ICOSA Centre
A workshop providing a safe place to explore human sexuality in a Christian context.

The meaning of radical Christian acceptance
Keynote by Lutheran Bishop Robert Rimbo of New York
There will be discussion time, and opportunity to consider accepting actions that might be taken by individuals or congregations.
Lunch and dinner are included in the registration fee.

Program details and registration form is at www.accepts.com.au
or call Kay on 0422 693 694 or 08 8564 3854

Sponsored by ACCEPTS, which offers Acceptance, Care, Counsel, Encouragement, Prayer, Theological Reflection and Support for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people, their families and their friends who may be unsure about their relationship with God or other Christians

LEA is an agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia. While we sometimes promote events, programs or services that congregations, groups or individuals organise for the wider church, in the interests of transparency and accountability, we advise that this particular event is not officially endorsed by the LCA.
Quality Schools (QS)

Quality Schools will be rolled out early in second term. The aims of this data collection tool are:

- assisting each Lutheran school in its understanding of the experience of staff, students and parents in their learning communities
- providing data for schools so that a school improvement plan can be developed and reviewed
- assisting and shaping the future directions of Lutheran education
- ensuring that genuine school improvement strategies address external accountabilities

Due to the timing of holidays across Australia the dates for QS have been staggered as follows:

- LEQ – 28th April – 24th May
- LEVNT – 28th April – 24th May
- LSA – 5th May - 31st May

A detailed briefing will be emailed to all schools in the coming weeks.

LEA eLibrary

The library of resources for staff in Lutheran schools and early childhood services is being updated regularly. Please encourage your staff to visit the eLibrary to access the 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.

A few I would highlight are:

- **Lutheran schools** – Why? Pastor James Winderlich
- **worship** – staff devotion, class or care group devotions, whole school worship
  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/
- **learning** and the vision we have for all learners
- **values** that underpin Lutheran education
- **Christian Studies** as a subject in the curriculum that has student learning outcomes and is assessed
  http://elibrary.lutheran.edu.au/elibrary/christian-studies/
- **service learning** as a means of teaching and experiencing working for peace and justice in the world
- **pastoral care**

**LEA federal news**

**Australia’s largest school poetry competition opens**
[1 March 2016]

Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said entries were now open for the 2016 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards, Australia’s oldest and largest poetry competition for school aged children. ‘The Dorothea Mackellar Awards are a great opportunity for students to express themselves through poetry and to explore a form of creativity and writing that can ignite the imagination and strengthen literacy skills,’ Minister Birmingham said. ‘The competition is a highlight of National Literacy and Numeracy Week in September and I encourage all students to have a go.’

Read the full media release

**NAPLAN is a vital tool to see if children are meeting essential standards**
[29 February 2016]

Robert Randall, Chief Executive Officer, ACARA this week said:

> Simply put, NAPLAN is a vital tool for parents, educators and the public to see if Australia’s children are meeting essential literacy and numeracy standards. Taking NAPLAN requires less than four hours over three days, four times during a student’s time at school. It is a point-in-time snapshot assessment of a student’s achievements in the important areas of literacy and numeracy. And from that small investment comes a wealth of student, school and national information. Literacy and numeracy tests have been undertaken in schools throughout the country for decades. NAPLAN complements these tests and adds a valuable national dimension.

> There’s a lot that goes into a student’s education and I know there’s more to school than literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN doesn’t test everything happening in the classroom or a school and isn’t designed to assess a student’s diverse and creative learning, entrepreneurial skills or risk-taking ability. However, it is focused on the critically important skills of literacy and numeracy, and NAPLAN data provides a wealth of information for teachers, schools, parents and carers and students. Why wouldn’t adults want to know about their child or student’s abilities in literacy and numeracy compared with their peers and, if necessary, seek assistance for their child or student as early as possible? NAPLAN is also about providing information to the general community. As a caring society, we should all want our children to master and understand literacy and numeracy concepts and know how our future adults are tracking. As the chief executive of ACARA, I am genuine about wanting a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy for every young Australian – so that they are well placed to become productive and fulfilled members of society’

Read the full article and the latest ACARA eNewsletter

**The PAIge** : A newsletter of Principals Australia Institute.

Click here to access Issue 1: February 2016