LEA strategic plan

Last week the National Leadership Team (NLT) met with Dr Neville Highett (BLEA chairman), Mr Peter Schirmer (LCA Executive Officer), Mr Michael Stolz (LCA – GCC) and LEA consultant, Mr Steve Atkinson (Atkinson Consulting). Steve Atkinson led the team in the further development and refinement of the LEA strategic plan. It is expected that a final draft will be presented to the September BLEA meeting in Brisbane (Prior to LCA General synod at Redeemer Lutheran College, Brisbane).

The three key focus areas for the LEA strategic plan are as follows:

- Strengthening Lutheran identity
- Creating thriving learning communities
- Ensuring long term system sustainability

Upon BLEA endorsement the LEA strategic plan will be communicated to Lutheran schools and be used in the development of regional futures planning.

Growing deep

The LEA Leadership and Formation Framework, titled Growing deep, is being trialled by a number of Lutheran schools in each region.

Before the formal roll out with information and training sessions for school leadership teams in the first part of 2016, LEA and each of the regional offices will take part in regional Growing deep workshops in September. These will be facilitated by Steve Atkinson and be held as follows:

LEA + LEVNT 3 September
LEA + LSA 7 September
LEA + LEQ 8 September

NLT, LEA and the regional offices look forward to supporting and promoting Growing deep amongst Lutheran school leadership teams in 2016. We also acknowledge the outstanding professional support, advice and input Growing deep has received during 2014 and 2015 to reach these exciting stages.

Lutheran schools currently trialling Growing deep are as follows:

- LSA: Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School, Golden Grove SA; Southern principals group (Tatachilla)
- LEQ: Pacific Lutheran College, Caloundra Qld; Bushwackers Group (Hervey Bay Qld)
- LEVNT: Good News Lutheran College, Werribee Vic; Geelong Lutheran College, Geelong Vic
Principal’s health

Please take a few minutes of your precious time to read this article, you may even wish to participate in the survey (http://principalhealth.org/au/index.php).

More importantly, please regularly take a few minutes or hours to ensure you are striving to maintain a reasonable life-work balance. Take a little time with family, friends or by yourself, to reflect on your life’s balance and priorities.

Please also be assured of the support available from your colleagues, from regional directors and regional teams and from the LEA team.

LEA correspondence with Minister Pyne
In the past weeks, LEA has been in written contact with The Hon Christopher Pyne. In our correspondence the following matters were raised:

- Sustainable indexation of school funding beyond 2017
  LEA holds the view that school funding increases must reflect the increases in school costs. Should these increases from 2018 be calculated by CPI indexation, an increasing financial burden will be imposed over time on all Lutheran schools. LEA seeks assurance of sustainable indexation of school funding for all schools to reflect real school cost increases.

- Nationally consistent funding for all students
  Under the current funding model which has different state/territory transition rates, there is inequity in the Commonwealth funds paid. LEA believes that schools with the same profile (including SES) should receive the same funding per student regardless of the state/territory in which that school is located.

- Funding for students with disability
  LEA positively supports needs-based funding for students with disability, particularly ensuring such funding follows students between sectors, regardless of school type. Since 2014 LEA notes a significant difference between the funding new students with disability attract compared to the funding for students already in Lutheran schools. The differential funding arises from transitional arrangements which calculate marginal funding for new students with disability to funding for current students. This has resulted in a shortfall for Lutheran schools. LEA requests the Commonwealth government addresses this unintended consequence of current funding arrangements.

- NAPLAN online
  While LEA generally agrees with the move to online NAPLAN assessment, there is deep concern about the cost of preparing for this at the local Lutheran school level where there will be additional costs required to implement this change.

If you, as Lutheran principals, meet with your local federal member, please raise these matters. The power of local principals conversing with local politicians and providing relevant feedback is significant.

LEA Assistant Director: Leadership
[Shane Paterson]

LDP
LDP6 will commence in 2016 with a cohort of approximately 24 participants across the three regions. A number of principals and interested participants have contacted me recently on the timing of the application process. It is expected that this process will open late September / early October and will be advertised through LEA news and regional communiques. In the meantime, if you have staff interested in participating in this program, speak with the relevant deputy director in each region.
**Quality Schools**

The Quality Schools survey will be administered during term 1, 2016. While there will be a core set of questions which will be used, each school will be able to include questions of their own choosing. The survey will also be branded with the school crest, motto, etc.

The costs to schools for this survey will be quite reasonable. Each school will be able to distribute as many surveys as desired (ie there is no minimum or maximum number). Schools will be invoiced on a per capita basis at $3.00 per student with invoices being distributed in February, based on August 2015 census figures.

Further details on this tool will be shared with principals during term 4.

**LEA Business Manager**

[Stephen Kroker]

**LEA levies 2016**

For school budgeting purposes, please be aware that the proposed LEA levies for 2016 are:

- National office $37.30
- Safe school liability fund $ 0.50
- Sick leave emergency fund $ 2.50
- Transfer fund $ 2.00