

Five Years down the Track

In the LEA Monograph, *Lutheran Schools at Millennium's Turn – a snapshot 1999-2000*, Mike Middleton identified nine major issues for Lutheran schools. These issues arose out of data collected from 18 schools across Australia who participated in a schools benchmarking survey. Subsequently, the same survey has been available to all Lutheran schools who have determined that they would like to gauge the level of 'health' for their own schools against the national benchmark set up from the original cohort.

For our 2004 ACLE presentation we:

- Clustered the nine major issues into 4 main groupings: the wholeness of schools including stress levels among teachers and leadership/management, purposes and marketing of schools, attitudes to subjects including Christian Studies, learning and teaching including motivation, self esteem, behaviour
- Highlighted key words and phrases to orient our participants to a considerable amount of information in a relatively short space of time
- Divided the group into four smaller groups
- Allocated one of the four main groupings of issues to each small group
- Provided each group with relevant segments from the benchmark surveys together with comparative graphs showing initial norms and updated norms
- Invited groups to consider the following questions: what has changed, what has stayed the same, what might the changes or no change imply, in the light of Peter Hart's presentation on school culture/climate what key things would you do to bring improvement to this area?
- Shared outcomes from each group discussion with the whole group.

Further information is available on request from:

Sue Kloeden, Education Officer – Curriculum, Queensland

kloeden.sue@qld.lca.org.au

Louise Mason, Professional Development Coordinator, SA/NT/WA

mason.louise@sa.lca.org.au