

## New LEA Executive Director

On behalf of the LEA team, I am delighted to acknowledge and welcome Dr Lisa Schmidt as the new LEA Executive Director.

Lisa will commence duties in 2019 and will bring to the role her significant knowledge, experience and qualifications from her professional life in education. She has also been a Director of the Board for Lutheran Education Australia since June 2013 and has been able to contribute most effectively to discussions and planning about a wide range of issues challenging Lutheran ECSs and schools. Together with you, we look forward to Lisa's leadership and service and know she will receive a warm welcome to Lutheran education in the months and years ahead.

Since 1982 Lutheran education has appointed three national directors / LEA Executive Directors, namely, Rev Tom Reuther, Dr Adrienne Jericho and Mr Stephen Rudolph. Lisa's appointment is a significant one and will bring in a new era for Lutheran education.

May God bless Lisa as she makes the transition and commences as the LEA Executive Director next year.

Principals, if you wish to send Lisa your words of congratulations, please use the following email address: [lisa.schmidt@flinders.edu.au](mailto:lisa.schmidt@flinders.edu.au)

(Please also note that Lisa's extensive qualifications include two Bachelor of Science (Honours) degrees. One is in mathematics and the second in biology)

## LEA / LPA Germany Lutherlands Study Tour

The 2018 LEA/LPA tour, with its 38 participants, was a resounding success due to the following factors:

- a year after the 500<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Reformation celebrations all Luther sites in Germany were refurbished beautifully and readily available
- a group of people waiting to learn about Luther's journey, each other and their own personal service and ministry
- highly capable and hospitable German tour hosts and leaders, Rev Dr Traugott Farnbacher and Rev Werner and Mrs Leisel Strauss

A sincere thank you to tour participants, LEA and LPA for supporting this tour.

## Orphanage Tourism and Lutheran schools

We thank Jonathan Krause of ALWS for bringing to our attention a one day conference on Orphanage Tourism being held in Melbourne on 24 August 2018.

This conference will explore the ethics and impact of orphanage tourism and Australia's proposed Modern Slavery legislation. Hear from government, child protection experts, advocates and travel organisations to understand what will change for schools and organisations that are engaged with overseas orphanages.



**FRIDAY AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> 2018 | 10<sup>AM</sup> - 3.30<sup>PM</sup>**

**Location:** Melbourne CBD

**Cost:** \$25 per person

**To register**

[www.orphanagetourismconference.com.au](http://www.orphanagetourismconference.com.au)

Participants will learn about best practice in protecting children overseas, and how schools can ensure they are helping, not harming.

Further information and online registration available at: <http://www.orphanagetourismconference.com.au/>

## Application for internship from German teacher

LEA has received an application for a 2-3 month internship from a German teacher to spend time in an Australian Lutheran school. Ramona Waldmueller is seeking an opportunity to contribute to a community in the areas of youth work and German language development.

Please contact LEA (email [joan.scriven@lutheran.edu.au](mailto:joan.scriven@lutheran.edu.au)) if your school would like to receive Ramona's details including CV, application letter and reference. Ramona would be available from September 2018 to March 2019 (negotiable).

## Favoured

Author and pastor, Peter Steicke, has written another book called 'Favoured'. It is all about living in a daily experience of God's favour. Peter is initially offering this book for free on his blog, one chapter at a time. Each chapter is short enough to be read in the time it takes to drink a hot cuppa. Leave your details at [www.incrediblyloved.com/blog](http://www.incrediblyloved.com/blog), and you'll receive three instalments a week by email.

**Stephen Rudolph**  
Executive Director  
Lutheran Education Australia

## Quality schools

Quality schools surveys are all but completed. The last survey will be completed by mid-August. RADII will then be able to prepare comparative data and forward it to all schools by the end of August. QS data is a valuable resource for schools. This year you will have received comparative data from the previous QS survey in 2016 enabling you to review the impact of previous school improvement plans.

Comparative data was requested by a number of schools after the last QS survey. While Lutheran schools vary greatly in size and location and are not easily compared, the comparative data will provide some insight into how your school is travelling in comparison with the 80 Lutheran schools Australia wide. It is important to focus on the context of your school in any comparison with other schools.

It is also important to remember that the data from Quality Schools is perception data; it is what respondents to the survey believe about your school. If you find there is a gap between what you believe is the reality in your school and the responses from parents and students, you have an excellent opportunity to further engage and inform your school community about your core educational messages.

## Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

In December, 2017, The Royal Commission released its final report. As well as providing numerous recommendations to governments, the report provided 48 recommendations directly to institutions. The Church is committed to implementing these recommendations. There are also actions required of Lutheran schools. LEA will:

- communicate the Royal Commission Child Safe Standards to all schools.
- oversee improvements to school training and risk management practices.
- oversee improvements to schools' complaints handling policies and procedures, especially in relation to the analysis of complaints and systemic improvements.
- follow up with boarding schools regarding the development of materials covering the Royal Commission's Child Safe Standards for boarding schools.

## LDP

The first semester of the LDP has been completed with most participants successfully completing their studies. The ALC course *Education and Theology in Dialogue* will be held in Brisbane from July 26-28 and in Adelaide from August 2-4. To help keep track of participants who decide to withdraw or

defer their studies we have developed a form to be completed should such circumstances arise. LDP participants will now also be requesting the 25% school subsidy for their studies.

Dianne Eckermann  
LEA Director of Leadership

## Federal matters

### Indigenous STEM Awards – Nominations open 27 August

[27 July 2018]

The Indigenous STEM Awards recognise, reward and promote the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people studying and working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Applications open on 27 August 2018 and close on 28 September 2018.

There are seven award categories:

- [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Professional Awards](#)
- [School Award](#)
- [STEM Champion Award](#)
- [Teacher Award](#)
- [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student STEM Achievement Awards](#)
- [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Maths Achievement Awards](#)
- [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Science Achievement Awards](#)

[Find out more](#)

### ACARA Update

[July 2018]

The latest ACARA eNews includes articles on:

- Australian Curriculum comparison studies released
- National Report on Schooling data portal updates
- Machine-readable content on the Australian Curriculum

[Access this issue](#)

### National poll to give voice to Australian children

[24 July 2018]

National Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell is calling on Australia's youngest citizens to have their voices heard in the 2018 Children's Rights Poll. The Poll was developed by the University of Melbourne and ABC's Behind the News program, in consultation with the Australian Human Rights Commission and young Australians. "The results of the 2018 Children's Rights Poll will provide an invaluable insight into what Australia must do to ensure the rights of all children are being upheld," Commissioner Mitchell said. "I know many children and young people are really engaged with civil society and want desperately to play a bigger role in our community. [Read the full media release](#)

### Independent schools welcome passing of copyright amendment bill

[27 June 2018]

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) commends the Turnbull Government for passing the Copyright Amendment (Service Providers) Bill 2017. ISCA Executive Director, Colette Colman said that, "We congratulate the Government on the passage of this important bill. It will extend safe harbour provisions in the Copyright Act to schools, ensuring they are protected against copyright infringements when students or staff use IT services provided to them." Without the protections of the safe harbour provisions, schools have been exposed to unintended and unnecessary legal risk from the provision of internet access. [Read the full media release](#)



## CULTIVATING YOUNG LEADERS

Dear principals

After the success of the 2017 Grow Leadership program, we are excited to announce that it is happening again in 2019! Grow Ministries and LCA International Mission have joined together again to offer a unique and exciting opportunity to the young adults of the LCA. The Grow Leadership program involves a Stretch and Grow experience overseas, two one week intensives, mentoring and involvement in a ministry within their congregational home.

How can you help? Do you know a young person aged 18-25 years old who shows leadership skills or demonstrates that they have a ministry heart? Please encourage them to consider applying by contacting Vicki Rochow [vicki.rochow@lca.org.au]

Applications close Sunday 30 September, 2018. [Find out more](#)