

LESER NETWORKS

For Principals of Colleges and Schools,
Directors of Kindergartens & Early Childhood Centres
LESER Office Hours 8.30am – 4.30pm



20 March 2014
No. 05

*LESER Networks is distributed fortnightly
Please ensure that all staff and school councillors receive this communication*

STICKER SHOCK

Some time ago I came across the expression 'sticker shock'. It's the shock you get when you find out something is much more expensive than you first thought! Has that happened to you? You've been browsing in a store and have found an item that you'd like to buy. You take a look at the price tag and get a real shock.

'It can't possibly cost that much!'

'There must be a mistake!'

'I'll negotiate a better price – there must be a way around paying that price!'

A well-known story from the gospels describes an occasion when Jesus' disciple Peter suffered an extreme case of sticker shock. Jesus had just begun to teach his disciples that **he 'must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.'** In response to this, Peter is shocked. He's horrified at the thought of Jesus suffering and dying. He actually steers Jesus aside privately and tells him off. A paraphrase of what Peter says might go like this: **"No Lord – this can't be! I'm shocked that you would suggest this! This can't be what it's going to cost you (and us!) to complete your mission here on earth!"** (To read the episodes in full see Luke 9:21ff, Matthew 16:21ff and Mark 8:31ff) Peter's 'sticker shock' reveals the very reason that the cross was necessary. His reaction sounds pious, but behind it was a conviction that "sin isn't as bad as all that." There's an inclination in all of us to want to minimize the severity of sin. But when we do that we actually devalue the great sacrifice that Jesus made in order to deal with our sin. The oldest strategy that we know is to replace what Jesus' does about sin with our own futile efforts to do something about it. When we're thinking like this, we're hoping that the 'sticker price' of salvation is one that we could actually pay ourselves. It often goes something like this:

"Christians are good people."

"They do good things."

"They serve God faithfully."

"They mean well! They don't hurt anybody!" *"Surely God should take all that into account!"*

LENT

We are currently in the season of Lent. Lent can be summed up as a time to re-evaluate the true cost of our sin. We see by the rejection, suffering, and death of Jesus that the payment for sin is terrible; it shocks us by its severity. And yet... There's another 'sticker shock' that's revealed in the gospel. *That shocking cost is not "passed on" to us!* We receive forgiveness of our sins not by earning it, but by trusting what Jesus has done for us – that's what we mean by the phrase: **"Salvation by grace, through faith"**. Paul puts it like this in Romans 5:16: **"Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God..."** The gospel of God's forgiveness in Christ brings with it the very best kind of sticker shock that it's possible to experience. **"What, you mean it's free? I don't have to do anything, just believe?"** Yes, it's free – in the sense that we don't have to earn our salvation – we can't. But it is also of infinite value. A cost that shocks us with its display of extravagant and costly sacrificial love. It is, quite simply, the most valuable gift we'll ever receive. To know the value of our salvation is to experience an utterly life changing power at work in our life, the power of the Holy Spirit. It's to be shocked – but in a wonderful way! The kind of shock that wakes us up, turns us around, reorients our thinking and redirects our life to be followers of the saviour, Jesus.



Pr. Brett Kennett
District Pastor for Congregational Support
Lutheran Church of Australia – Victorian District

AMBASSADORS FOR RECONCILIATION

Over the past two days the staff of the LCAV District Office, and LESER Office, have been training as Ambassadors for Reconciliation under the guidance of LCA Director of Reconciliation Ministry, Pastor Bruce Zagel and assistant Karen Kerber. An Ambassador for Reconciliation is about relationships. The training focuses on how to scripturally address the conflicts we all experience in daily life. Conflict coaching, mediation, and church conflict services are available for specific conflicts, but Reconciliation Ministry is, first and foremost, about bringing healing and restoration to relationships fractured by conflict, restoration through the proclamation of the gospel.

Reconciliation Ministry is a lifestyle, not a program. The lifestyle of reconciliation is founded on gratitude for the forgiveness we have in Christ that moves the believer to serving others for the sake of Christ. Ambassadors for Reconciliation have been used with great success as staff training in several of our schools. For further information about the training, please contact our office.

SCHOOLS ASSEMBLY

Tomorrow a letter will be sent to Principals, Chairs and Business Managers in follow up to the Schools Assembly Meeting held on Thursday, 06 March. The letter is an acknowledgement of the contributions of the attendees to what I thought was a very productive discussion, and outlines a way forward as we seek to continue the consultation process in the lead up to the next Schools Assembly meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 14 June.

LAKESIDE LUTHERAN COLLEGE INSTALLATION

We congratulate David Spike on the eve of his installation at the College, which will take place at 9.00 am, Friday, 21 March. We thank God for David's willingness to take up this critical role and wish him every blessing for his future leadership of this vibrant school community.

TRINITY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

On Monday, March 24 the position of Principal at Trinity Lutheran College, Mildura will be advertised. The position will commence in January 2015 as current Principal Andrew Leske will conclude his time at Trinity this year and be seeking other leadership opportunities.

Founded in 1982 as a Primary School with an enrolment of 29 students, Trinity Lutheran College is situated in a major growth corridor and has steadily developed into a double-streamed, co-educational day of 460 students, catering for year levels Prep to Year 10. Please visit teachers.on.net for application details. The advertisement can be seen on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Paul Weinert
Director

paul.weinert@leser.lutheran.edu.au

PRINCIPALS' RETREAT 2014

The 2014 Principals' Retreat has been scheduled for Wednesday, 04 June (5.00 pm) through to lunch time on Friday, 06 June. The retreat will again be held at the Campion Retreat Centre in Kew. While the format will be similar to 2013, the content will be totally different from last year. A registration form will be available in the next action memo or can be downloaded via the link on the [home page on our web site](#).

In the meantime we encourage you to reserve a place in your calendar for this important spiritual growth opportunity. The estimated full cost of the retreat, including facilities hire, accommodation and all meals will be in the vicinity of \$240 per person.

STAFF CONFERENCES 2014

Due to the geographical spread of our schools across three states of Australia, the Regional Hub Groups – Western, Central and Riverina are important forums through which our school leaders can connect on a more regular basis. Last year in these forums, we discussed the possibility of planning a staff conference. While one conference for the whole region at some point may be a possibility, there was a very strong feeling that it would be much more cost effective and achievable for our staff to gather together in three separate regional gatherings.

Accordingly, three dates have now been locked in place as follows:

Riverina Regional Conference

At St Paul's College, Walla Walla **FRIDAY, 15 AUGUST**

(Henty, Jindera, Wagga Wagga, Walla Walla, Wodonga)

Western Regional Conference

At Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Horsham **FRIDAY, 22 AUGUST**

(Dimboola, Nhill, Hamilton, Horsham, Mildura, Portland, Tarrington)

Central Conference

At Luther College, **MONDAY, 06 OCTOBER**

(Croydon (x2), Geelong (x2), Hobart, Pakenham, Sunshine, Tarneit)

It is intended that these be whole of staff conferences. The scheduled conference days will therefore be school closure days for the school communities involved in each particular conference, making it possible for everyone to attend. With that in mind, the programs for the conference days will be designed to have relevance for all staff. Lutheran Education South East Region has allocated a substantial amount of money in the budget to offset the direct cost to schools.

In planning these days, our school leaders have been strong in the view that it is important for us to come together to celebrate our common heritage, to connect with our colleagues in other schools and be reaffirmed and encouraged in our roles of bringing the good news of Jesus to young people and families in our communities.

Neville Grieger

Assistant Director

neville.grieger@leser.lutheran.edu.au

LESER EQUIP MODULES 2014



Modules 3-4 are for teachers who have completed **BOTH Modules 1 & 2**. Please choose a date for **each** of Modules 3-4:



Module 3	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine	Friday, 28 March
	Riverina (Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga)	Friday, 21 March
Module 4	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine	Friday, 16 May
	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine	Tuesday, 27 May
	Riverina (venue TBA)	Friday, 30 May

If you wish to register, please do not hesitate to contact me

BEGINNING TEACHERS' DAY – MONDAY, 19 MAY

Due to a clash with NAPLAN testing, we need to change the date for the BEGINNING TEACHERS' DAY. The new date is now **Monday, 19 May** and will be held at the Quality Hotel, Tullamarine. This day is for recently graduated teachers who are teaching in Lutheran schools for the first time. It is not only for Christian Studies teachers. Please register your expression of interest to me.

Liz Pietsch
Education Officer
liz.pietsch@leser.education.edu.au

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



TRINITY LUTHERAN COLLEGE MILDURA

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL

Founded in 1982 as a Primary School with an enrolment of 29 students, Trinity Lutheran College is situated in a major growth corridor and has steadily developed into a double-streamed, co-educational day of 460 students, catering for year levels Prep to Year 10.

Trinity Lutheran College aims to provide quality education in the Lutheran tradition, which values Christian beliefs and living, and provides a sound academic, spiritual, physical, social and emotional preparation for further life. The College is situated on four hectares with well-appointed grounds and buildings. Students are able to participate in many sports and congregate in clean, well landscaped common areas.

Trinity Lutheran College is seeking to appoint an innovative and energetic educator who can provide inspiring spiritual, educational, administrative and financial leadership to the entire school community. In addition, we seek a Principal with visionary capabilities who can ensure that enrolment targets are met and future directional opportunities are realized.

SELECTION PROCESS

Prospective candidates can obtain an information package from the LESER Office by contacting Josie Muratore, Office Administrator at josie.muratore@leser.lutheran.edu.au

The Council has appointed a Selection Panel who will conduct the following process which will culminate in a recommendation to Council for the appointment of Principal, Trinity Lutheran College.

All applications will be acknowledged.

- All applicants will be contacted once the short-listing has been completed.
- Short-listed applicants will be invited to attend one or more interviews in Mildura during April.

Short-listed applicants will have relevant expenses covered to attend the interview(s).

Applicants should include the following information in their application:

1. A covering letter, including relevant biographical information and contact details
2. Experience in a combined Primary/Secondary setting and career history
3. A statement which addresses the Key Selection Criteria outlined under Selection Criteria (maximum of one page per selection criteria)
4. Cultural interests, sporting and recreational pursuits
5. The names and candidates of at least three referees including your current school Principal (if candidate does not already hold this position) and your congregational Pastor

Please note that the referees of shortlisted candidates may be contacted prior to further communication with the applicant. Applications should be emailed (hardcopies are not required) and addressed to: josie.muratore@leser.lutheran.edu.au

Mr Paul Weinert
Director
Lutheran Education South East Region
Level 1/755 Station Street
BOX HILL Vic 3128

Applications Close: Tuesday, 08 April 2014
Position Commences: January 2015

“THE SPOTLIGHT” ST JOHN’S LUTHERAN SCHOOL GEELONG



St John's
**Lutheran
School**

Learn Imagine Grow



At St John’s Lutheran School, we believe it is important to belong to our local community and represent our School at significant local events.

Pako Festa is the largest free celebration of cultural diversity in Australia! It attracts people from our local and cultural communities, as well as people from further afield. Professional performers, community groups, schools, businesses, street traders and artists are all involved in various activities. The Parade is a highlight of the Pako Festa program.

On a mild Saturday morning in February, we had over 70 students and staff participate in the Pako Festa Parade. Most of our students were dressed in the national costumes of various countries. Others wore their school uniform with pride. Students waved ribbons and balloons, blew bubbles and handed out fliers. The students made a very colourful impact as they travelled down the Parade route, cheered on by parents, friends and former students as well as the large crowd.

We are proud to be involved in this community event which showcases our School and enables our students to experience cultural diversity. St John’s participates in this event each year as our School is located so close to the Pakington Street shopping precinct which hosts the Pako Festa.



ISV – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DATES

Independent Schools Victoria have Professional Development seminars and can be found on their website at:

<http://www.is.vic.edu.au/services/professional-learning/calendar/index.shtml>

These are the seminars being conducted March seminars for your information:

MARCH

17 Monday

[Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Basic One](#) (Day One of Five)

Southern Cross Program 1 (Day Three of Four)

[TAE10 Certificate IV Training and Education \(For Teachers\)](#) (Day One of Six)

[The Australian Curriculum for Non- Mathematics Trained Teachers of Mathematics](#) (Day One of Three)

18 Tuesday

Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Basic One (Day Two of Five)

Southern Cross Program 1 (Day Four of Four)

The Australian Curriculum for Non- Mathematics Trained Teachers of Mathematics (Day Two of Three)

19 Wednesday

Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Basic One (Day Three of Five)

[From Strategy to Action – Cohort 2](#) (Day One of Four)

[Learning Difficulties, Including Dyslexia – Core Skills for all Staff](#)

Southern Cross Program 2 (Day Three of Four)

20 Thursday

[Implementing the ATPDF – Utilising Student Voice](#) (Day One of Two)

Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Basic One (Day Four of Five)

From Strategy to Action – Cohort 2 (Day Two of Four)

Southern Cross Program 2 (Day Four of Four)

[Strategic Planning for School Leaders](#) (Day One of Two)

[Unpacking ‘Belonging, Being and Becoming’ in the Light of Current Early Learning Perspectives](#) (Day One of Two)

21 Friday

Implementing the ATPDF – Utilising Student Voice (Day Two of Two)

Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Basic One (Day Five of Five)

[Learning Difficulties, Including Dyslexia – Core Skills for all Staff](#) (Horsham Location)

Unpacking ‘Belonging, Being and Becoming’ in the Light of Current Early Learning Perspectives (Day Two of Two)

24 Monday

[Enhancing Literacy Skills, Critical Thinking and Shared Inquiry in the Early and Lower Primary Years with Junior Great Books](#) (Day One of Two)

[Geography in the Australian Curriculum](#)

[Preschool Assistants – The Role Defined and Developed](#)

TAE10 Certificate IV Training and Education (For Teachers) (Day Two of Six)

25 Tuesday

Enhancing Literacy Skills, Critical Thinking and Shared Inquiry in the Early and Lower Primary Years with Junior Great Books (Day Two of Two)

[Screencasting – Creating Video Tutorials: Blended Learning and Staying Relevant in the 21st Century](#)

26 Wednesday

CHC51308 Diploma of Education Support (Day Four of Twelve)

[Dance and Drama in the Australian Curriculum for Primary Generalist Teachers](#)

[Learning Difficulties, Including Dyslexia – Core Skills for all Staff](#)

Strategic Planning for School Leaders (Day Two of Two)

27 Thursday

Effectively Using Classroom Observation (Day Two of Five)

[Enhancing Literacy Skills, Critical Thinking and Shared Inquiry in the Upper Primary and Middle Years with Junior Great Books](#) (Day One of Two)

[Numeracy / Mathematics Coordinators’ Network](#)

[Sustaining Positive Discipline in Schools for Primary and Secondary Classroom Teachers](#)

28 Friday

CHC50113 Diploma of Children’s Services (Early Childhood Education and Care) (Day Two of Ten)

Enhancing Literacy Skills, Critical Thinking and Shared Inquiry in the Upper Primary and Middle Years with Junior Great Books (Day Two of Two)

[Learning Difficulties, Including Dyslexia – Core Skills for all Staff](#) (Warragul Location)

Survival Guide 101 for the New Individual Needs Teacher (Day Two of Two)

LESER CALENDAR DATES – 2014

LESER Office re-opens	13 January	
LESER Planning Days (Office Closed)	20 – 21 January	
Australia Day Holiday	27 January	
Christian Studies Leaders – Western Hub	14 February	TBC
Western Hub Meeting	17 February	TBC
Equip Module 1 – Melbourne	21 February	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Christian Studies Leaders – Central Hub	25 February	TBC
College Of Directors	25 – 27 February	LEA – Adelaide
LEA Working Parties	25 – 28 February	LEA – Adelaide
BLEA	27 – 28 February	LEA – Adelaide
Early Childhood Retreat	27 Feb – 1 March	
Equip Module 1 – Riverina	3 March	TBC
Christian Studies Leaders – Riverina	4 March	TBC
LESER Principals' Day	6 March	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LESER Planning Day (Office Closed)	7 March	
Labour Day Holiday Vic/Tas	10 March	
ALWS Awareness Week	10 – 14 March	
Equip Module 3 – Melbourne	14 & 28 March	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LESER Staff Training Days (office closed)	18 – 19 March	
Equip Module 3 – Riverina	21 March	Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga
LESER Business Managers' Day	28 March	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Good Friday	18 April	
Easter Monday	21 April	
ANZAC Day	25 April	
LPA Day	30 April	
National Lutheran Schools Week	5 – 9 May	
LEA Working Parties	5 – 9 May	Brisbane
Equip Module 4 – Melbourne	16 & 27 May	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LESER Beginning Teachers' Day	19 May	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
College of Directors	20 – 21 May	Brisbane
Equip Module 4 – Riverina	30 May	TBC
Principals' Retreat	4 – 6 June	TBC
Queen's Birthday Holiday	9 June	
Schools Assembly (tentative)	14 June	TBC
BLEA	19 – 20 June	
Germany Tour	5 – 18 July	
Equip Module 2 – Melbourne	24 July	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Equip Module 5 – Melbourne	25 July	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LESER Principals' Day	1 August	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LEA Working Parties	4 – 8 August	Adelaide
College of Directors	5 – 6 August	LSA
Riverina Hub Conference	15 August	St Paul's College, Walla Walla
Western Hub Conference	22 August	Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Horsham
National Lutheran Principals Conference	24 – 27 August	Alice Springs
Equip Module 2 – Riverina	27 August	
Equip Module 5 – Riverina	28 August	
Christian Studies Leaders – Riverina	29 August	TBC
BLEA	4 – 5 September	Adelaide
LESER Schools Assembly (TBC)	6 September	Quality Hotel Melbourne Airport
LCA District Convention	3 – 5 October (TBC)	Good News Lutheran College, Tarneit
Labour Day NSW	6 October	
Central Hub Conference	6 October	Luther College
Equip Module 6 – Melbourne	10 October	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Equip Module 6 – Riverina	17 October	TBC
LESER Business Managers' Day	17 October	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Christian Studies Leaders – Western Hub	24 October	
Melbourne Cup Day	4 November	
College of Directors	11 – 12 November	Adelaide
LESER Principals' Day	14 November	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LESER Office Closes	19 December	
NOTE: Newly added dates		

From the LEA Executive Director [Stephen Rudolph]

Asia Lutheran Education Association (ALEA)	Next week I will be attending and presenting at the 2014 ALEA Conference in Hong Kong. The conference keynote speakers and topics will be as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mel Keischnick: <i>Lutheran Distinctives in Education</i> • Mr Dave Begbie: <i>Experiential Education</i> • Mr Mark Sheldon: <i>The Contribution of the Church in Asia in the 21st Century</i>
LCA Bishop's LCA eNews and Heartland eNews	All principals are warmly encouraged to subscribe to Bishop John Henderson's regular message <i>Heartland eNews</i> . You can do this via the link below. The most recent LCA eNews is available at http://createsend.com/t/t-EF56AA99B6A39369 This edition announced the acceptance of Call by Pastor James Winderlich as Principal of Australian Lutheran College. LEA has written to James extending the best wishes of LEA and all Lutheran early childhood centres and schools, and assuring him of our prayerful support now and into the future. Click here to subscribe to Heartland eNews and LCA eNews publications
Medibank: a special offer for LCA employees	Join Medibank Corporate hospital and extras cover between 1 and 31 March 2014 and on top of the ongoing 8.3% discount, LCA employees can get a \$100 Coles gift card for single memberships and a \$200 Coles gift card for couple/family memberships. If your staff are interested, they should contact their Medibank consultant as follows: SA : sacorporate@medibank.com.au QLD: gldcorporate@medibank.com.au NSW: nswcorporate@medibank.com.au VIC: viccorporate@medibank.com.au WA: wacorporate@medibank.com.au
Creative and Innovative ICT Awards - Secondary Students - Nominations Now Open	AARNet has advised that nominations for the 20 th national iAwards are now open to all segments of the ICT industry especially secondary student projects . See www.iawards.com.au Deadline Monday April 28. The iAwards honour the achievements of the student and the school through state and national exposure. Winners of the iAwards 2014 will have the opportunity to compete against the Asia Pacific region at the 2014 Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA). There are 13 product and service categories plus eight for individuals including secondary, tertiary and post graduate students. To submit a nomination: visit the website www.iawards.com.au ; review the eligibility criteria webpage ; then register and upload your nomination.

From the LEA Assistant Director: Leadership [Shane Paterson]

Principals Australia Institute (PAI) Webinars	PAI is offering 15 webinars in the coming months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The L5 Leadership Series. A series of 5 webinars over 5 months based on PAI's L5 Leadership Framework. PAI's webinars are delivered live but recorded for your convenience. Register now to secure your place in PAI's professional learning webinar. Click here for further details • Research in Practice webinars source national and international researchers and leading thinkers to deliver powerful free online professional learning. Join our feature presenters: Yong Zhao, Professor David Christian, Dr Maria Langworthy and more, in either a live or recorded session. Click here for further details
Formation / Leadership Frameworks	Regional representatives met together last week at LEQ to begin work on developing Leadership and Formation frameworks. The opportunity to collaborate and develop common understandings was extremely beneficial. The group recognised the importance of both ongoing spiritual and theological formation and distributed leadership within schools. Further work is needed to be undertaken before wider consultations occur. <i>[Anne Dohnt and Shane Paterson]</i>
LPA news reminders	LPA News was sent earlier this week. Principals are reminded of the following: <p>Dan Haesler workshops Registrations are now open for school leaders to attend the Dan Haesler workshop <i>Wellbeing for Leadership</i>. Information on these workshops was included in LPA News 2014 Natinal Lutheran Principals Conference [Alice springs, 24-27 August] Registrations for this conference can be directed to the LEA office. A registration form was included in the LPA News</p> <p>EduTECH EduTECH are offering discounts for Lutheran school staff to attend the upcoming EduTECH conference. Information on how to obtain these discounts was included in the fliers attached to LPA News</p>

	Note: If you did not receive the LPA News email via LPAnet on Tuesday 18 th March could you please inform me shane.paterson@lutheran.edu.au
Irene scholarship	The recipient of the 2013 Irene scholarship was Esther Harding a staff member of Grace Lutheran College, Rothwell Qld. Read of Esther's wonderful experiences that resulted from being the recipient of the scholarship at http://www.lutheran.edu.au/school-professionals/scholarships-and-awards-for-staff/ The recipients for the 2014 scholarship are David and Natasha Folker from Living Faith Lutherna school, Murrumba Downs Qld.

LEA Canberra connections	
Socioeconomic status still influences school performance [17 March 2014]	<p>As was the case in the mid-1970s, socioeconomic status (SES) still remains a major influencer on school performance. This is the finding from the report <i>Intergenerational mobility: new evidence from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth</i>, published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) that examines the extent of changes in intergenerational mobility in Australia since the 1970s. Using data from the Youth in Transition study (YIT) and the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY), the report looks at the ranking of student's educational achievement in literacy and numeracy tests at ages 14 and 15, and their Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER) at ages 18 and 19 on the one hand; and parents' SES on the other.</p> <p><u>Read the full media release</u></p> <p>Copies of <i>Intergenerational mobility: new evidence from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth</i>, by Gerry Redmond, Melissa Wong, Bruce Bradbury and Ilan Katz, are available from www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2712.html</p>
One national model for school funding unachievable [13 March 2014]	<p>The previous Labor Government's idea to design a common national funding model for all schools was a commendable but unachievable vision, according to Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) Executive Director, Mr Bill Daniels. Mr Daniels was giving evidence to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding in Sydney. "We have been left with merely the rhetoric of a national funding model, and a reality that we have a more complex and less transparent situation than existed before, and this is most unsatisfactory," he said. According to Mr Daniels, the funding arrangements for 2014 were hastily finalised and only represent a small, incremental step towards a model which it is now clear, will never fully come to fruition.</p> <p><u>Read the full media release</u></p>
ACARA Update Extra [12 March 2014]	<p>NAPLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 key dates On 13, 14 and 15 May, all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will sit the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. NAPLAN provides a snapshot of how students are performing in the fundamentally important areas of literacy and numeracy • 2014 writing test In the NAPLAN 2014 writing test, as in previous years, all students will respond to a single, common writing prompt. The genre for the writing test will not be disclosed before the test day. Students will not be given a choice of writing genre. NAPLAN will test one of narrative or persuasive writing. This applies to all NAPLAN year levels • Background to NAPLAN NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. These include reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. NAPLAN complements classroom-based assessment but adds a 'national' component. The results give schools and systems the ability to measure their students' achievements against National Minimum Standards and against other states and territories. There are many things that teachers need to examine to determine how a student is progressing at school. NAPLAN is unique because it provides nationally comparable data. We know this information is valued by teachers and parents. <p>NAPLAN is not a pass/fail type test. It looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy compared with their peers throughout Australia. It is a test that cannot be specifically studied for, and students are not expected to do so. Teachers and schools want an honest picture of what students can do in the areas of literacy and numeracy so that they can plan for improvement</p>
Survey of school principals released [6 March 2014]	<p>The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) has released an important report on the views and experiences of secondary school principals with the drug and alcohol issues faced by their schools. The ANCD has for some time been advising that schools can play a critical role in reducing the negative impacts of drug and alcohol use in our communities; and reducing the demand for drugs and alcohol via a comprehensive approach to drug prevention that includes school settings has been a key feature of Australia's National Drug Strategy for nearly 30 years.</p> <p><u>Read the full media release</u> <u>Read the report</u></p>