LEA News for school leaders
13 April 2016

LEA and federal politics
In recent days, Stephen Kroker, LEA Business Manager, and I have met with both Senator Simon Birmingham [pictured right top with Stephen Rudolph], Federal Minister for Education and Training, and the Hon Kate Ellis MP [pictured right bottom with Stephen Rudolph], Federal Shadow Minister for Education and Early Childhood. The following information provides a summary of the LEA presentation to both Senator Birmingham and the Hon Kate Ellis:

Key funding messages
1. provide a basic funding entitlement for all Lutheran schools that keeps pace with costs in government schools and ensures each Australian student receives a world class education
2. provide additional needs-based funding for schools, families and students who are disadvantaged because of factors such as indigeneity, location, disability and socioeconomic / cultural disadvantage
3. provide families affordability and accessibility in their choice of schools in a way that encourages diversity, yet does not penalise private funding contributions to education
4. ensure that all systems and school authorities have equal access to recurrent, targeted, capital and other funds through transparent and nationally recognised funding protocols
5. allow systems and school authorities to effectively and confidently operate schools in a stable and transparent environment with predictable and annual funding indexation

Affirming core principles for a funding model
The present school SRS funding system, undergirded by the Gonski principles, has seen a substantial change to school funding in Australia. The SRS funding system is in its third year of operation (2014-2017) and has tried to establish a stable and predictable approach to federal funding.

However, the unfortunate vagaries of the political cycle, Commonwealth and State/Territory relationships, national financial constraints and implementation difficulties have resulted in uncertainty about a long term model and an incomplete inconsistent transitional roll out.

LEA supports a means-tested, sector-blind and needs-based approach to school funding. LEA supports an improved funding approach for the future where the core principles of equity and sustainability are the key drivers and system funding predictability is provided.

In conclusion, LEA encourages candidates to strive for and provide a long term national funding model that is equitable, predictable and sustainable and allows systems to effectively and confidently operate schools in a stable and transparent environment with predictable and annual funding indexation.

LEA’s view of current funding proposals:
Coalition:
LEA is concerned that the Coalition’s existing funding policy would see school funding increase at the rate of the consumer price index (CPI) from 2018. LEA does not support this policy as funding increases need to keep pace with real education costs and with indexation linked to AGSRC increases. LEA requests from the Coalition clarity of its 2018+ funding for Lutheran systems and until this is confirmed, cannot support the Coalition’s policy. (LEA awaits the 2016 Federal Budget to ascertain any change to the Coalition’s current policy)

Labor:
LEA acknowledges the Labor Party’s ‘Your child. Our future’ policy which will assist all Australian schools with an additional $4.5 billion in funding expected in 2018 and 2019. Subject to the Federal Labor Party being able to align all states and territories to the SRS model, LEA is pleased to support this policy.
LEA Business Manager
[Stephen Kroker]

LCA Business Partners
The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) partners with [Church Resources](http://www.lca.org.au/business-partners.html), through whom we have agreements or contracts with a number of product and service providers including telecommunications, travel, car hire, office supplies and health cover. Please visit [http://www.lca.org.au/business-partners.html](http://www.lca.org.au/business-partners.html) for details.

Sick Leave Emergency Fund claims for 2015
A total of 19 claims for the 2015 year have now been processed and the schools involved have been notified. Below is a summary of the amounts reimbursed to schools. In total, $119,000 was paid out.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount reimbursed</th>
<th># of claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1 to $1,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,001 to $5,000</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,001 to $10,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,001 to $20,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,001 to $30,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LEA federal news

ACEL: 2016 national awards: Call for nominations
ACEL honours educational leaders who have made a significant contribution to the improvement of student and organisational outcomes. This contribution will be reviewed against set criteria, which have been based on the AITSL Australian Professional Standards.
Evidence provided must demonstrate impact at a system, state and/or national level. Research that has influenced significant change is highly valued.
Members are invited to nominate an individual or team who have made such a contribution. To assist members with this process the ACEL Awards Committee has provided information in regards to confidentiality of process, responsibilities of Branch and National Awards Committees, nomination requirements and a description and criteria for Fellowships and Awards.
The 2016 National Awards will be presented at the ACEL President’s Reception and Awards Ceremony on the evening of Thursday 29th September 2016 at the MCEC (as part of the 2016 ACEL National Conference).
[Click here](http://www.acel.org.au) to download the ACEL National Award Criteria.
[Click here](http://www.acel.org.au) to download the ACEL National Award Nomination form.
[Click here](http://www.acel.org.au) to download the ACEL Fellowship Criteria.
[Click here](http://www.acel.org.au) to download the ACEL Fellowship Nomination form.

Independent schools value direct Commonwealth funding relationship  [31 March 2016]
The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has welcomed Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull’s recognition of the importance of the ongoing direct funding relationship between the non-government school sector and the Commonwealth Government. ISCA Executive Director Colette Colman said that, “the Independent school sector values its long term collaborative relationship with the Commonwealth Government. Mr Turnbull’s comments on ABC radio today reflect our sector’s concerns that state and territory governments would face competing interests if they became the majority funders of government and non-government schools, while both sectors were competing for enrolments from the same pool of potential students.” [Read the full media release](http://www.isca.asn.au)

ACARA Update  [31 March 2016]
[Click here](http://www.acara.edu.au) to access the latest ACARA eNewsletter which features:
NAPLAN 2016 aligned with the Australian Curriculum
This year, NAPLAN has been aligned to the Australian Curriculum: English and the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. Previously, the tests were based on the Statements of learning for English and the Statements of learning for mathematics. The best preparation for NAPLAN is to continue focusing on teaching the curriculum. The Australian Curriculum for English and mathematics has been implemented in all states and territories. It incorporates the essential learning described in the Statements of learning and provides a broader common curriculum for teaching and learning in English and mathematics for all Australian students. While most items in the NAPLAN 2016 test will be similar to past tests, there will be some important but subtle differences in some tests. See more information on the NAP website.

Also read about:

- ACARA CEO’s response to article in The Australia regarding students with special needs
- Latest Primary Matters
- Registration of Australian Curriculum codes