Turnbull ministry announced
LEA is pleased to advise that Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham has again been appointed as Minister for Education and Training in the new Turnbull ministry. With his knowledge and experience, as well as a funding review imminent, LEA looks forward to working with Senator Birmingham in relation to Lutheran school system funding. In the Coalition’s ‘Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes’ policy document, the government foreshadowed a significant reform agenda as well as recognising principals as key to enabling and promoting quality schooling for Australian students. LEA will be seeking opportunities to discuss these matters with Senator Birmingham. [See Senator Birmingham’s statement below]

LEA-GCC governance and administration review
The Board for Lutheran Education Australia (BLEA) met with Dr Maureen Cleary for the first time at the BLEA meeting held in June. As principals would be aware, Dr Cleary has been appointed by the LCA’s General Church Council (GCC) to facilitate a review of the governance of Lutheran education. This appointment and process are as a result of the LCA decisions made at both the 2013 and 2015 General Synods.

Dr Cleary has now met with many key leaders and groups across the LCA and Lutheran education. As a result of Phase 1 consultations, LEA expects that GCC, via Peter Schirmer (LCA Executive Officer), will extend the consultation process beyond 2016 into 2017 to include further consultations. BLEA has encouraged extending and deepening the consultative processes to ensure all LCA and Lutheran education voices are given ample opportunity to be heard and to have multiple inputs for any possible future Lutheran education governance structures.

On behalf of BLEA and the Chair, Dr Neville Highett, I wish to thank all who have provided feedback to Dr Cleary for this significant process that the LCA has instigated. When GCC advises the next steps, Peter Schirmer will share details of future phases in the consultative process and how each group and individual can be involved.

 Principals, please share this paragraph with your school / college councils.

Growing deep
LEA has six grants of $2000 for the development of resources and/or professional learning for the implementation of Growing deep. Schools can choose to use the money to release staff for the development of these resources in an area of Growing deep of the school’s choosing that supports the school’s School Improvement Plan and the ongoing development of Lutheran education. The resources developed will be made available to other schools through the Growing deep website. Please visit the Growing deep ‘home tab’ on the website to access the grant application form.

Quality Schools
A survey monkey for Quality Schools has been sent to all principals in LEQ and LEVNT, with the LSA survey to go out next week. We are keen to gather information about the QS survey tool, in particular the rollout, delivery and readability of the data. LEA would like to use this information to inform future decisions around national school data.
gathering. Thank you to those principals who have already responded.

Now that schools are engaging with their Quality Schools data you may find the following links to articles (below) useful as you use your data to work towards school improvement:

- Some of you may already have the National School Improvement Tool and many AISs are working with schools using this resource for their School Improvement Plans: https://www.acer.edu.au/files/NSIT.pdf
- Additionally the Catholic Education Continuous Improvement Framework may also be useful as it has a focus on the ‘Catholic Identity’, giving a faith emphasis: http://www.bps.sa.edu.au/__files/f/16403/CESA_School+improvement_web+Final.pdf

I wish you every blessing as you begin a new school term.

LEA news

Elite private school responds to Instagram controversy
[The educator 19 July 2016]

A Melbourne private school has responded over a misogynist Instagram account that was set up by two of its students. Yesterday, it was reported that police had launched an investigation into the account, which was set up by two Year 11 students attending Brighton Grammar School (BGS), located in south-east Melbourne. The account, which has since been removed, asked visitors to vote on the ‘slut of the year’, and showed images of young girls in various stages of dress, as well as in their school uniforms.

Both students responsible for the account have been suspended. On Monday, the school released a statement saying that the Instagram post was ‘disgraceful’ and ‘does not reflect the values of BGS’. ‘Disrespectful behaviour on any social media site is simply unacceptable and will not be tolerated,’ the statement read.

Read the full article

Senator Simon Birmingham

Reappointment as Minister for Education and Training
[18 July 2016]

Senator Simon Birmingham said ‘I am honoured to have been reappointed as the Minister for Education and Training. The Coalition took to the election strong, clear policies in early education and child care, schools and higher education, which I look forward to delivering. Our early education and child care reforms have been the subject of extensive consultation and will direct the greatest support to those families working the most hours and earning the least. The Prime Minister and I have committed to seeing them legislated at the earliest opportunity.’

Read the full media release

ISCA Congratulates Ministers
[18 July 2016]

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has welcomed the reappointment of Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham as Minister for Education and Training, as well as the appointment of the Hon Karen Andrews MP as Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills. ISCA Executive Director, Colette Colman said that she looked forward to continuing the positive working relationship the Independent school sector has established with Senator Birmingham on a wide range of education related issues, particularly those that affect the Independent school sector.

Read the full media release

AITSL eNews
[18 July 2016]

The latest AITSL eNews includes:

- Profiles in action: a video series for principals, aspirants and system leaders
- National conversation on leadership pathways
- Top tip for beginning teachers – development of an app to enhance induction for new graduates
- July reading list: communicating high expectations

Click here to read the eNews
Schools ‘lack resources to investigate abuse

[The educator 13 July 2016]

Small schools are ill-equipped to investigate complaints into child abuse, a Royal Commission heard on Tuesday morning. The commission, now into its third day, is an inquiry into how the providers of services for disabled children handle sex abuse allegations. NSW private school principal, Tony Fitzgerald – whose school was in the spotlight over allegations of child sex abuse by one of its teachers – told the commission his school lacked the resources to thoroughly investigate the claims.

Read the full article