



# Weekly Briefing For Member Schools

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## [Australian Government to Provide Funding for Prep Student Assessment](#)

Government and non-government primary schools will receive funding from the Australian Government to undertake Australian Early Development Index assessments of all Prep students by July 2009.

## [Cost of Education Increases in Melbourne](#)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released data indicating that the cost of education is growing more rapidly in Melbourne than in other Australian capital cities.

## [Parliamentary News](#)

Forthcoming sitting dates for the Victorian and Australian Parliaments.

## [Think Climate Think Change Competition](#)

The Australian Government has launched a competition for students in years 3 to 9 to describe what climate change means to them.

## [Research Australia National Youth Ambassador Competition](#)

Research Australia is running a competition to find the Australian National Youth Ambassador for Health Research.

## [AccessNano Teacher Professional Development](#)

The Australian National Office of Nanotechnology is offering professional development for teachers of science and technology.

## [Education with Muslims Workshop](#)

The National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies is running a seminar for teachers on inclusive curriculum and teaching practices.

## [Courage to Care Exhibition and Student Workshops](#)

The Courage to Care project is providing access for school groups to exhibitions that focus on diversity and tolerance in society.

## [History Teachers' Association of Australia 2009 Conference](#)

The History Teachers' Association of Australia will hold its annual conference in Melbourne in July 2009.

## [School Registrars National Conference](#)

The inaugural school registrars national conference will take place in Brisbane in September 2009.

## [Seminars for the week beginning 4 May 2009](#)

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### **Australian Government to Provide Funding for Prep Student Assessment**

*Media Release, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, 27/04/09; The Australian, Patricia Karvelas, 27/04/09; Canberra Times, Emily Sherlock, 28/04/09*

The Australian Government Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, has announced that Prep children across Australia will be assessed using the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) by July 2009. The AEDI is a questionnaire that consists of a checklist of 100 factors that assess children's physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and learning skills, communication skills and general knowledge. It is designed to identify children who are at risk of falling behind developmentally in their first five years. Minister Gillard stated that 'the data collected through the AEDI can be used to inform communities about the health and development of children in their area and can be used to better target and develop support and services that can help children in their first five years of life'. Minister Gillard indicated that information would be forwarded to all Australian schools and emphasised that results published from the AEDI would not identify individual children. Participation in the AEDI assessment is not compulsory but schools that choose to participate would need to complete the assessment of all Prep students by the end of July 2009. Schools that do participate in the program will receive funding support to provide teacher relief for the time taken to conduct the questionnaire. It is estimated that teachers would require 20 minutes to complete the questionnaire for each student. Preliminary data from the survey is expected to become available by the end of 2009. Go to [www.aedi.org.au](http://www.aedi.org.au) for further information about the assessment program.

### **Cost of Education Increases in Melbourne**

*The Age, Dan Harrison, 24/04/09*

Data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics has suggested that the cost of education has grown more rapidly in Melbourne in 2009 than in any other Australian capital city. According to Consumer Price Index data for the March 2009 quarter, the cost of secondary education rose by an average of 8.7 per cent in Melbourne from March 2008 to March 2009. By comparison, the Australian capital city average was 7.6 per cent. The average cost of pre-school and primary school education increased for Australian consumers by 4.3 per cent in 2009 while tertiary education increased by 3.2 per cent. Overall, the cost of education in Australia increased by five per cent. The Chief Executive of AISV, Ms Michelle Green, indicated that 2009 fee increases in non-government schools were largely caused by significant increases in staffing costs, following the Victorian Government's agreement with the Australian Education Union in 2008 to increase government school teacher salaries. Ms Green also indicated that compliance costs associated with increasingly complex regulation of schools also had an impact on non-government school fees. The President of the Australian Secondary Principals' Association, Mr Andrew Blair, argued that the charges levied by government schools on parents were increasing because of inadequate government funding for schools.

### **Parliamentary News**

The Victorian Parliament (Assembly and Council) rose on Thursday 2 April 2009. The Legislative Assembly will resume on Tuesday 5 May 2009 for the delivery of the 2009 Victorian Budget. The Legislative Council will resume on Wednesday 6 May 2009. The Australian Parliament (House of Representatives and Senate) rose on Friday 20 March 2009 for the Autumn Recess. Both Houses will return on Tuesday 12 May 2009 for the delivery of the 2009 Australian Budget.

### **Think Climate Think Change Competition**

The Australian Government Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, has launched a new competition for school students to explain what climate change means to them. The *Think Climate Think Change* competition encourages students in years 3 to 9 to use their creative talents to discuss climate change in a range of forms. The judging criteria will be based on creativity, originality and attention to the theme. Competition winners will receive a range of prizes and will travel to Canberra to share their ideas with the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Minister Gillard and Minister Wong. All schools will receive a resource kit about the competition at the start of term two. The competition opens on Tuesday 28 April 2009 and closes on Wednesday 24 June 2009. Go to [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au) after Tuesday 28 April 2009 to access entry forms and further information about the competition.

### **Research Australia National Youth Ambassador Competition**

Research Australia is running a competition to find a National Youth Ambassador for Health Research. The competition is looking for students who care about health issues and who could promote the importance of science and research to young people, business and government leaders. Students in years 9 and 10 are requested to examine the factors that affect the development of the brain and to provide their views in an 800-1000 word essay on 'nurturing my brain to be the best person I can. What I can do to increase my brain capacity to be as capable as I can possibly be'. Applications for the competition close on Monday 13 July 2009. Go to <http://youthambassador.researchaustralia.org> for further information and to access application forms for the competition.

### **AccessNano Teacher Professional Development**

The Australian Office of Nanotechnology is offering professional development for teachers who wish to use the AccessNano educational resource as part of their teaching of science and technology. The AccessNano resource provides teachers with 13 web-based modules on nanotechnology for secondary students. A seminar will be held in Melbourne on Wednesday 27 May 2009 at the CSIRO Education Centre, Graham Road Highett. The seminar will cost \$30 per participant. Go to [www.accessnano.org](http://www.accessnano.org) or contact Sarah Keenihan at [sarah@bridge8.com.au](mailto:sarah@bridge8.com.au) for further information on the AccessNano resource or the professional development.

### Education With Muslims Workshop

The University of Melbourne's National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies and the Australian Curriculum Studies Association (ACSA) are providing a professional learning workshop for teachers on providing inclusive teaching practices and curriculum for Islamic students. The free *Education with Muslims – Moving Forward* workshop will investigate Islamic history and cultures in Australia, methods of integrating Islamic studies into a VELS curriculum and the establishment of inclusive, whole-school approaches to support students, parents and communities from different cultural backgrounds. The workshop will take place on Friday 22 May 2009, from 9.30 am to 2.45 pm at the Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level One, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, Cnr Swanston Street and Monash Road, University of Melbourne. Go to [www.nceis.unimelb.edu.au/school-education/education-with-muslims](http://www.nceis.unimelb.edu.au/school-education/education-with-muslims) to register to attend the workshop, or contact ACSA on 02 6260 5660 for further information on registration. For further information on the design and delivery of the workshop, contact Eeqbal Hassim at [ehassim@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ehassim@unimelb.edu.au) or on 03 8344 4956.

### Courage to Care Exhibition and Student Workshops

Courage to Care is a travelling exhibition and educational program that seeks to foster tolerance, acceptance and an appreciation of diversity in the community. The exhibition includes a free two hour student workshop that seeks to use historical events to address contemporary issues of acceptance of 'the other' for students in years 9 to 12. Set in the historical context of World War II, Courage to Care pays tribute to those individuals who have been designated as 'Righteous among the Nations' – those men and women who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save others. The workshop is linked to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards for Civics and Citizenship and Communication and the National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools. It includes an introductory film, testimony from a Holocaust survivor, a viewing of the exhibition and discussion with a facilitator to highlight the relevance of the message from the past in the lives of the students today. Exhibitions will be held at the Jewish Museum, 26 Alma Road St Kilda, from Monday 4 May 2009 to Friday 29 May 2009 and at the Horsham Town Hall, Wilson Street Horsham, from Monday 20 July 2009 to Friday 31 July 2009. Teachers' Previews of the Program are arranged prior to each Exhibition and will include the provision of preparatory information and resources for students. Go to [www.couragetocare.com.au](http://www.couragetocare.com.au) for further information or contact Heidi Hayden (Project Coordinator) at [couragetocare@bigpond.com](mailto:couragetocare@bigpond.com) or phone 9525 8439.

### History Teachers' Association of Australia 2009 Conference

The History Teachers' Association of Australia (HTAA) will hold its annual conference in Melbourne in July 2009. The *History in the Making* conference will include over 70 workshops, including a keynote address from Professor Stuart MacIntyre, the author of the national history curriculum framing document. The conference will take place from Thursday 16 July 2009 to Friday 17 July 2009 at the Hemisphere Conference Centre, 488 South Road Moorabbin. Go to [www.htav.asn.au](http://www.htav.asn.au) for further information on the conference.

### School Registrars National Conference

The Queensland Association of School Registrars will host the 2009 Inaugural National Conference for Independent School Enrolment Registrars. The *Essential Registrar* conference will take place from Wednesday 2 September 2009 to Friday 4 September 2009 at the Rydges Hotel, 9 Glenelg Street South Bank, Brisbane. For further information about the conference or to obtain conference program and registration information, contact Nina Johanson, the Registrar at Cannon Hill Anglican College, at [registrar@chac.qld.edu.au](mailto:registrar@chac.qld.edu.au) or on 07 3896 0402

### Seminars for the week beginning 4 May 2009

Day	Seminar Name	Time	Venue
Monday 04/5	First Steps Reading – Second Edition (Program A): Day 2 Using Enquiry to Differentiate your Curriculum	9.00 am – 3.30 pm	Seminar Room
		9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Training Centre
Tuesday 05/05	Using Enquiry to Differentiate your Curriculum	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	Training Centre
Wednesday 06/05	Enhancing Learning In the Middle Years Through ICT (Program 2)	9.00 am – 3.00 pm	Seminar Room
Thursday 07/05	Enhancing Learning In the Middle Years Through ICT (Program 2) Integrating the Use of Multiple Resources and Moving Away from Sole Dependence on the Single Mathematics Text Studies of Asia – National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Project Briefing	9.00 am – 3.00 pm	Seminar Room
		9.30 am – 3.00 pm	Training Centre
		4.30 pm – 6.00 pm	Training Centre
Friday 08/05	Enhancing Learning In the Middle Years Through ICT (Program 2)	9.00 am – 3.00 pm	Seminar Room

The Seminar Room is located at 20 Garden Street. The Training Centre and Board Room are located at 30 Garden Street.

Note: The AISV Weekly Briefing is also available on the AISV web site, including back issues. The AISV web site is at <http://www.ais.vic.edu.au>.

To obtain further information on any of the above matters, please contact AISV

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