



Weekly Briefing For Member Schools

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[Minister Announces Latest Capital Funding Round](#)

Education Minister Julia Gillard has announced recipients of funding under the second round of the *Primary Schools in the 21st Century Program*.

[Report Calls for Additional Investment in Asian Languages](#)

Griffith University has argued that \$11.3 billion is needed to ensure that half of Australia's population is fluent in an Asian language within 30 years.

[Parliamentary News](#)

Forthcoming sitting dates for the Victorian and Australian Parliaments.

[New Australian Government Ministry Announced](#)

Prime Minister Rudd has announced that Kate Ellis MP will become the new Minister for Early Childhood Education, Childcare and Youth.

[New Minister for Early Childhood Education Outlines Vision of Pre-School Education](#)

Minister Ellis has argued that she will take a 'parent-centred' approach to early childhood education reform.

[Research Investigates Single-Sex Schooling and Attitudes to Competition](#)

Research in Britain has found that girls are more competitive when they are in single-sex situations.

[Australian Schools to Participate in International Project to Assess Job-Ready Skills](#)

An international research project aims to develop assessment tools for the key skills that students will need in the modern economy.

[Spirit of ANZAC Teachers' Study Tour](#)

History and humanities teachers can apply to take part in a 15 day course that will visit significant World War I and World War II sites in Europe and the Middle East.

[Seminars for the week beginning 15 June 2009](#)

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Minister Announces Latest Capital Funding Round

Media Release, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, 09/06/09; The Age, Glenn Milne, 09/06/09; Herald-Sun, Gerard McManus, 09/06/09; The Australian, Natasha Bitu, 10/06/09

The Australian Government Minister for Education, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, has announced the second round of funding under the *Primary Schools for the 21st Century* (P21) element of the *Building the Education Revolution Program* (BER). In Victoria, 776 school received \$1.4 billion under Round Two, with independent schools receiving 15 per cent of the funding. Government schools received 62 per cent of the funding and Catholic schools received 23 per cent. Newspapers such as *The Age* and *The Australian* continue to report 'critics' of the BER Program, who argue that funding should be targeted towards 'under-resourced schools', rather than to 'elite private schools that boast of their superior facilities...handed hundreds of millions of dollars'. Minister Gillard reiterated that 'we deliberately designed this as a program for all schools'. Primary schools that did not receive funding under rounds one and two of the P21 Program will be eligible to access funding under Round Three, which closes on Friday 10 July 2009. Go to www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au to access a list of the schools funded to date under the various elements of the BER.

Report Calls for Additional Investment in Asian Languages

The Age, Farrah Tomazin, 10/06/09; The Australian, Guy Healy, 10/06/09; Sydney Morning Herald, Yuko Narushima, 10/06/09

Griffith University's Asia Institute has released a report that has called for half of Australia's population to be fluent in an Asian language by 2040. The *Building an Asia-Literate Australia: An Australian Strategy for Asian Language Proficiency* report has found that Australia is the third most monolingual country in the developed world, and that three-quarters of Australians are only able to speak English. The report has argued that \$11.3 billion in government funding would be required to quadruple the number of university and school students who study an Asian language over the next 30 years because 'as China's and India's influence spreads, and Japan and Indonesia become major players, our region will increasingly conduct its business in the languages of the big Asian powers, and be shaped by their mindsets and preferences...Relying on others who speak English, or on interpreters, brings major disadvantages: we may miss crucial nuances or differences in meaning or intent.' Under the proposal, funding incentives would be provided to teachers to retrain as language teachers and a National Asian Languages Institute would be established to oversee all funding and resources. The first five-year phase would see the expansion of Japanese, Mandarin and Indonesian in schools. At least one primary school and secondary school in each education district would receive funding in the following 10 years to teach Hindi, Korean and Arabic. In the final 15 years, schools would receive funding to increase the teaching of Vietnamese, Thai, Bengali, Cambodian, Lao and Burmese. Funding would be provided through a competitive bidding process, under which schools would commit to ensuring that all students up to Year 10 receive a minimum of 150 minutes of instruction per week in the target language. Go to www.griffith.edu.au/australian-strategy-asian-language-proficiency to access a copy of the report.

Parliamentary News

The Victorian Parliament (Assembly and Council) rose on Thursday 11 June 2009. Both Houses will next sit from Tuesday 23 June 2009 until Thursday 25 June 2009. The Australian Parliament (House of Representatives and Senate) rose on Thursday 4 June 2009. Both Houses will next sit from Monday 15 June 2009 until Thursday 25 June 2009.

New Australian Government Ministry Announced

Following the recent Cabinet re-shuffle, the Prime Minister, The Hon Kevin Rudd MP, has upgraded Early Childhood Education and Childcare to a Ministerial appointment. The current Minister for Youth and Sport, The Hon Kate Ellis MP, has been named as the new Minister for Early Childhood Education, Childcare and Youth, as well as the Minister for Sport. Minister Ellis is the Member of the House of Representatives for Adelaide. Prior to her election to Parliament in 2004, she was a Ministerial Adviser to the South Australian Government. In 2004, she was appointed to the House of Representatives Standing Committee for Family and Human Services. In November 2007, she became the Minister for Youth and Sport. The previous position as Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Childcare has been abolished. The Prime Minister stated that 'establishing a Ministry for Early Childhood Education and Childcare for the first time reflects the importance the Australian Government places on these policy challenges'.

New Minister for Early Childhood Education Outlines Vision of Pre-School Education

The Australian, Patricia Karvelas, 11/06/09

Minister Ellis has indicated that the Australian Government intends to take a 'parent-centred' approach to early childhood education reform. She stated that the Australian Government intended to create an 'open and balanced' pre-school curriculum for four-year-old children that 'allows kids to be kids', but which still ensured that they receive key learning. She also indicated that she would drop the Australian Government's election promise to rate childcare centres from A to E. Minister Ellis also stated that, while the Council of Australian Governments had made a commitment to ensure that all children receive 15 hours per week of education in the year before they started at school, these 15 hours would not be free for parents and that it would be up to individual states and territories to determine how much parents were charged. She indicated that she was aware of concerns about price increases in childcare, but stated that she would try to ensure that parents were not charged higher costs.

Research Investigates Single-Sex Schooling and Attitudes to Competition

The Age, Caroline Milburn, 08/06/09

Research conducted by Australian National University (ANU) and Essex University has suggested that teenage girls who attend single-sex schools are more competitive than girls who attend coeducational schools. The *Choosing to Compete: How Different are Girls and Boys* study compared the behaviour of 260 English boys and girls when asked to enter a competition that included a small financial reward as well as their attitudes to risky economic decision-making. It found that girls from single-sex school and boys from both single-sex schools and coeducational schools were equally likely to behave competitively in the experiment. Girls from coeducational schools were much less likely to participate in the competition, but the likelihood of the girls participating increased after they were placed in single-sex groups. The research also suggested that student family background was not a significant factor. Professor Alison Booth from ANU and Dr Patrick Nolen from Essex University concluded that 'our major finding is that single-sex schooling can affect economically important preferences...the benefit of single-sex education - in terms of increasing competitive behaviour - is being realised primarily by females...The average female does avoid risky and competitive behaviour more than the average male but we've shown that this varies depending on the environment that females find themselves in. You can't say that the difference in behaviour is only due to some innate genetic characteristic because we've shown that girls in single-sex environments make similar choices to boys.' Professor Booth indicated that she intended to repeat the study for Australian students. Go to <http://ftp.iza.org/dp4027.pdf> to access a copy of the paper.

Australian Schools to Participate in International Project to Assess Job-Ready Skills

Media Release, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, 08/06/09; The Australian, Andrew Trounson, 08/06/09; Canberra Times, Emma Macdonald, 09/06/09

Minister Gillard has announced that Australia will participate in an international research project to develop assessment tools of key skills needed by graduating students in the modern economy. The *Assessment and Teaching of 21st Century Skills Project* is a not-for-profit collaboration between Cisco, Intel, Microsoft, Australia, Finland, Portugal, Singapore and the United Kingdom. The project will be led by Professor Barry McGaw, the Chairman of the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Reporting Authority, and aims to ensure that education systems are able to keep pace with the skills sets required to participate in the changing global economy and to adapt to advances in information and communications technology. It will identify the skills that modern students need to possess, develop tools to measure those skills, design electronic assessment systems and assess the implications for teaching and learning programs. The project will focus on computer-based assessment systems that test students' abilities in cross-disciplinary analytical, creative, adaptive and problem-solving skills as well as their ability to work cooperatively. Go to www.atc21s.org for further information on the project.

Spirit of ANZAC Teachers' Study Tour

Media Release, The Hon Tony Robison MLA, 09/06/09

The Victorian Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, The Hon Tony Robison MLA, has invited secondary history and humanities teachers to apply for six available places in the 2009 Spirit of ANZAC Teachers' Study Tour. The tour provides teachers with an intensive 15-day field course during the Term 3 holidays, which will visit significant World War I sites including Gallipoli, the Somme and Ypres, as well as visiting the Drancy internment camp in Paris to learn more about the Holocaust. Participating teachers will have the cost of airfares, land travel, accommodation and entrance fees provided through the program. Preference will be given to teachers who are in the early stages of their career. Participating teachers will be encouraged to share their learning and expertise with their colleagues, both face-to-face and online and to contribute teacher resources to the Victorian Government's Ultranet and Knowledgebank: Next Generation. Applications for the tour close on Monday 29 June 2009 at 5.00 pm. Go to www.shrine.org.au/content.asp?document_id=2154 to access selection criteria and further information about the program.

Seminars for the week beginning 15 June 2009

Day	Seminar Name	Time	Venue
Monday 15/06	First Steps Writing – Second Edition (Program B): Day 2 of 2 LOTE Planning for a Dynamic Semester 2- Years 7-10	9.00 am – 3.30 pm 9.30 am – 3.00 pm	Training Centre Seminar Room
Tuesday 16/06			
Wednesday 17/06	Managing Challenging Behaviours in the LOTE Classroom Schematic Design Students with Disabilities - Funding Briefings 2010	9.30 am – 3.30 pm 10.00 am – 12.00 pm 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Seminar Room Training Centre Ballarat
Thursday 18/06	Students with Disabilities - Funding Briefings 2010	10.30 am – 12.30 pm	Bendigo
Friday 19/06	Students with Disabilities - Funding Briefings 2010	9.00 am – 1.00 pm	Training Centre

The Seminar Room is located at 20 Garden Street. The Training Centre and Board Room are located at 30 Garden Street. The Ballarat Funding Briefing will take place at Ballarat Christian College, 16-26 Vickers Street Sebastopol. The Bendigo Funding Briefing will take place at Victory Christian College, 2 Marnie Road Bendigo.

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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