



Weekly Briefing For Member Schools

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[Victoria to Introduce Unique Student Number](#)

Fifty Victorian schools will participate in the first rollout of the Victorian Student Number project.

[Catholic Schools Establish a National Broadband Network](#)

The National Catholic Education Commission has allocated \$146 million to install a broadband network for all Australian Catholic schools.

[New South Wales Schools to Introduce Performance-Based Pay](#)

The New South Wales and Australian Governments will fund a joint program to provide higher salaries to accomplished teachers who work in the most disadvantaged government schools.

[Australian Government Launches Cybersafety Website](#)

A website has been launched that provides advice on cybersafety to children, teachers and parents.

[Parliamentary News](#)

Forthcoming sitting dates for the Victorian and Australian Parliaments.

[Tertiary Scholarships for Children of Veterans](#)

A range of scholarships for tertiary study are available for the children and grandchildren of former and current Australian Defence Force members.

[Critical Incident Stress Management Conference](#)

The conference will address ways in which people and organisations can build resilience and support those affected by critical incidents.

[Kids Teaching Kids River Health Conference](#)

Schools students have been given the opportunity to participate in and present at a conference on river health.

[Secondary Students and Sexual Health Survey](#)

La Trobe University is launching the results of its fourth national survey of secondary student sexual health.

[Seminars for the week beginning 20 July 2009](#)

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Victoria to Introduce Unique Student Number

Media Release, The Hon. Bronwyn Pike, MLA, 15/07/09; The Age, Farrah Tomazin, 14/07/09

The Victorian Government has announced that it will introduce a unique student number for all school students in 2009. The Victorian Minister for Education, The Hon. Bronwyn Pike, MLA, has indicated that 50 government and non-government schools will participate in an initial rollout in July 2009, with all other school students receiving their Victorian Student Number (VSN) by the end of 2009. In 2010, the VSN will be extended to all students under the age of 25 years who are enrolled in vocational education and training. Minister Pike indicated that each student's VSN would be recorded in a new Victorian Student Register (VSR), which would also include students' names, dates of birth, gender and enrolment history, including the date of enrolment and departure from each education and training provider in Victoria. She stated that this would 'help identify students at risk of dropping out of the education and training system prior to completion of year 12 or an equivalent qualification'. Minister Pike emphasised that 'strict privacy controls' would apply to the VSR, with *The Age* stating that it believed that access to the VSR would be limited to 'the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority; education and training providers that require the information for the purposes of enrolling students, and selected Education Department staff'.

Catholic Schools Establish a National Broadband Network

Media Release, Catholic Education Office, 13/07/09

The Catholic Education Office has announced that Telstra will establish a national broadband network to link Catholic schools across Australia. The \$146 million project will be installed over the next two years, with the further aim of connecting all Australian Catholic agencies and parishes over the next few years. The predominantly fibre-based network will provide Catholic schools with carrier-grade connectivity and will be managed through a range of virtual private networks and gateway exchanges. It will permit Australian Catholic schools to share teaching practice, content and resources, to create online learning communities and to respond to increasing government accountability.

New South Wales Schools to Introduce Performance-Based Pay

The Australian, Justine Ferrari, 11/07/09; Daily Telegraph, Bruce McDougall, 11/07/09;

The Australian Government Minister for Education, The Hon. Julia Gillard, MP, and the New South Wales Minister for Education, The Hon. Verity Firth, MLA, have announced that the Australian Government will fund a project to pay higher salaries to the best teachers. Under the plan, 100 'highly accomplished teachers' will be employed to work in disadvantaged schools in New South Wales and will receive \$98,000 per annum – 20 per cent above the current highest rate of pay in New South Wales. Applicants will need to demonstrate superior skills and will be judged on student results, by their peers and by observation of their classroom practices by external examiners. These teachers will have a reduced teaching load to provide them with time to mentor other teachers in disadvantaged schools and to take up school leadership roles. The Australian Government has agreed to provide \$720 million over five years under the National Partnerships program to support the project, while New South Wales will provide \$237 million. Minister Gillard stated that the project would 'bring back the spirit to disadvantaged schools' while the New South Wales Teachers' Federation (NSWTF) maintained that the project was 'a token effort' and that 'there are much better ways of supporting quality teaching in schools'.

Australian Government Launches Cybersafety Website

Media Release, Senator The Hon. Stephen Conroy, 13/07/09; Media Release, Australian Communications and Media Authority, 13/07/09

The Australian Government Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator The Hon. Stephen Conroy, has launched a new *Cybersmart* website, which provides:

- current information and advice about cybersafety
- information about how children engage with online technologies
- teacher resources and links to education department guidelines
- an online helpline for children who have undergone negative online experiences
- online booking for the Australian Communications and Media Authority's *Cybersafety Outreach* professional development program for teachers.

Go to www.cybersmart.gov.au to access the website.

Parliamentary News

The Victorian Parliament (Assembly and Council) rose on Thursday 25 June 2009. Both Houses will resume sitting on Tuesday 28 July 2009. The Australian Parliament (House of Representatives and Senate) rose on Thursday 25 June 2009 for the Winter Recess. Both Houses will resume in the Spring Session on Tuesday 11 August 2009.

Tertiary Scholarships for Children of Veterans

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) has announced that it intends to provide financial assistance for up to 65 students to meet the costs of tertiary education under a range of scholarship schemes. Eligible students must be under 25 years of age, must meet the assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full-time education, must be enrolled or planning to enrol in a full-time, undergraduate course of tertiary education in Australia of one or more academic years of length, and must be the child or grandchild of a person who has operational service or more than three years continual full-time service as a member of the Australian Defence Forces. Recipients will receive between \$3000 and \$5000 per annum, depending on the scholarship. Applications open on Tuesday 18 August 2009 and close on Saturday 31 October 2009. For

further information on the range of scholarships available or to receive an application form, go to www.accsoft.com.au/~vvt or contact AVCAT at vvt@accsoft.com.au, at PO Box K978, Haymarket NSW 1240 or on 1800 620 361.

Critical Incident Stress Management Conference

The Critical Incident Stress Management Foundation Australia is holding its bi-annual conference in Melbourne. The *Planning, Responding to and Building Resilience in our Changing Environment* conference will discuss methods of planning for and responding to building resilience in the face of critical incidents. It will also examine the implications of critical incidents for those who have to deal with people who have faced such incidents. The conference will be held at The University of Melbourne on Monday 9 November 2009 and Tuesday 10 November 2009. For further information or to register to attend the conference, go to www.cismfa.org.au or contact cismfa@bigpond.com or (03) 9663 7999.

Kids Teaching Kids River Health Conference

As part of the Kids Teaching Kids program, the Murray Darling Basin Authority is conducting an International River Health Conference in 2009. The program will involve Australian and international students in years 5 to 11 working with expert mentors in the lead-up to the conference to produce curriculum materials that aim to create a cultural change in the way that students view, use and perceive the natural environment. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to lead the workshops and presentations at the conference. The conference will take place in Canberra from Sunday 18 October 2009 until Tuesday 20 October 2009. Schools are permitted to send a maximum of 10 students and 2 teachers to the conference. For further information or to register to attend the conference, go to www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com/mdba/ or contact Firestarter on (03) 9329 3736.

Secondary Students and Sexual Health Survey

La Trobe University's Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society is launching the results of the *Secondary Students and Sexual health: 4th National Survey of Australian Students, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health*. The launch will be held on Tuesday 4 August 2009 from 10.30 am until 12.00 pm at La Trobe University's City Campus, Ground Floor, 215 Franklin Street Melbourne. To register to attend the launch, contact n.yin@latrobe.edu.au or (03) 9285 5382.

Seminars for the week beginning 20 July 2009

Day	Seminar Name	Time	Venue
Monday 20/07	Talking Our Way to Understanding: Oral Language for ESL Learners Professional Learning Communities	9.30 am – 3.30 pm 9.30 am – 4.00 pm	Seminar Room Training Centre
Tuesday 21/07	Review of Programs for Students with Special Learning Needs	8.30 am – 4.00 pm	Board Room
	Building Connectedness: Easing the Transition to Middle School and Beyond	8.30 am – 4.00 pm	Training Centre
	How to Differentiate the Curriculum to Cater for All of the Students in Your Class	8.30 am – 4.00 pm	Bayview Eden
	Learnosity: Mobile Phones in LOTE	10.30 am – 3.30 pm	Seminar Room
Wednesday 22/07	Review of Programs for Students with Special Learning Needs	8.30 am – 4.00 pm	Board Room
	Creating Authentic Mathematical Experiences in Early Childhood Education	9.30 am – 4.00 pm	Training Room
Thursday 23/07	Building a Teaching Online Toolbox	9.00 am – 3.30 pm	Seminar Room
	First Steps Speaking and Listening – Second Edition: Day 2 of 2	9.00 am – 3.30 pm	Training Centre
	Anaphylaxis Training Briefing	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Board Room
Friday 24/07	Occupational Health and Safety: One Day Program	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Training Centre
	Spelling Mastery	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Seminar Room

The Seminar Room is located at 20 Garden Street South Yarra. The Training Centre and Board Room are located at 30 Garden Street South Yarra. The Bayview Eden Hotel is located at 6 Queens Road Melbourne.

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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