

Schools for All Report

Association of Independent Schools of the ACT

Quarterly Report – April 2018

Introduction

As noted in the Preamble of the ACT Government Response to the Expert Panel recommendations, “...AIS (has) considered each recommendation and acknowledge a strong desire to build on existing reforms, improvements and initiatives in so far as it is practical and possible. As an independent governing body representing 18 independent schools that are separate and autonomous entities, AIS notes all the recommendations and the ACT Government response.”

An indication of this desire to build on an existing reform, and to respond to the recommendations, is evidenced in the agenda of both AIS ACT Board and Executive Committee meetings. Further, the Executive Committee has established a Schools for All Subcommittee to provide, where Schools for All is a standing item, advice on strategies, opportunities and approaches in direct reference to the Schools for All Report, and with alignment to the responses to the recommendations from the Association. The establishment of this Subcommittee was noted and endorsed by the full Board of AISACT.

Recent consultation with Member Schools determined that the report and the recommendations have facilitated and expanded the refining of best practice to engage students with challenging behaviours and complex needs. The report’s findings have reaffirmed to staff that many of the practices are already embedded in schools.

The Association Subcommittee has taken the timely opportunity to once again look at all the recommendations and note all activities undertaken over the past two years. This has provided the Board with a comprehensive report acknowledging and celebrating the excellent work of Member Schools and the office in progressing and increasing the awareness of support to all students in all schools irrelevant of if they have challenging behaviours and complex needs.

Progress on the Recommendations specific to Independent Schools and/or to AISACT

Overarching 2018

AIS ACT has continued a sustained focus on ensuring inclusive practices in schools.

AIS ACT have changed the name from the Schools for All Executive Sub Committee to Education Support Sub Committee to reflect the ongoing nature of the work. **Rec 15.1**

AIS ACT have renewed the partnership with Catholic Care for the provision of EAP services and negotiated psychological testing. **Rec 12.1**

The AIS ACT 2018 Colloquium will be held on August 30th. The Colloquium will provide school presentations and opportunities for reflection and sharing. The theme for 2018 is: Building a Culture of Excellence - Nurturing Learning. As in the past, the colloquium includes a strong component of student voices. **Rec 6.2**

Specific 2018

At the beginning of 2018 AIS ACT appointed a Manager, Education Support. This role is focussed on supporting schools in classroom and school wide inclusive practices through provision of advice, professional learning, collaborative practices and opportunities for sharing. The Manager is an experienced special educator with a strong leadership background in Education Support. In 2018 to date the following actions have been undertaken by this officer:

- Ongoing Students with Disabilities Network Meetings **Rec 10.7 and 13.7**
- TQI accredited professional learning on the NCCD and processes **Rec 10.7 and 13.5**
- School visits to advise on specific issues such as ILPs, behaviour support, classroom strategies for adjustments as well as presentations at team and staff meetings **Rec 15.2 and 6.3**
- Implementation of a Masterclass for Principals and school leadership staff on a range of local and national issues such as School Governance and the NCCD **Rec 13.7**
- Representation on the National Education Initiative, led by BeyondBlue **Rec 6.1**
- Promotion of professional learning and engagement through the AIS ACT Newsletter **Rec 6.3**
- Provision of advice and support to schools in multidisciplinary collaboration and support for families **Rec 12.1, 6.3 and 12.3**