

Schools for All Report

Association of Independent Schools of the ACT

Quarterly Report – July 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 demonstrated in the agendas of both AISACT Board and Executive Committee meetings. Further, the Executive Committee established a Schools for All Subcommittee to provide, 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 also reaffirmed to staff that in many ways the practices recommended are already embedded in schools.

The Association Subcommittee continues to reflect on all the recommendations and note continued activities. It also acknowledges and celebrates the excellent work of Member Schools, and the office of the Association in progressing and increasing the awareness of support to all students in all schools irrespective of any challenging behaviours and complex needs.

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

Highlights of the period April - July 2018

- AISACT has continued a sustained focus on ensuring inclusive practices in schools.
- AISACT 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**
- AISACT have renewed the partnership with Catholic Care for the provision of EAP services and negotiated psychological testing. **Rec 12.1**
- The AISACT 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**

With the appointment at the beginning of 2018 of a Manager, Education Support at AISACT there has been a focus on supporting schools in classroom and school wide inclusive practices, through provision of advice, professional learning, collaborative practices and opportunities for sharing.

Since April 2018, the following actions have been undertaken by the office of ACTAIS:

- Ongoing Students with Disabilities Network Meetings **Rec 10.7 and 13.7**
- Colloquium 2018 Keynote speakers : Lee Watanabe-Crockett *Future Focussed Learning* and Tom Brunzell *Trauma- Informed Positive Education practice : A whole school approach to bolster vulnerable students* **Rec 6.2 and partial 9.1**
- TQI accredited professional learning on the NCCD and processes **Rec 10.7 and 13.5**
- School visits to provide advice 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 and 12.1
- Implementation of a Masterclass for Principals and school leadership staff on the a range of local and national issues including 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 AISACT Newsletter **Rec 6.3 and 3.2**

- Provision of Legal Advice in the AISACT Newsletter provided by Sneddon Hall & Gallop **Rec 3.2**
- Provision of advice and support to schools in multidisciplinary collaboration and support for families **Rec 12.1, 6.3 and 12.**
- Standby Advisory Group continued representation and collaborative development and implementation of workshops with Headspace in Schools ACT. **Rec 6.1**
- Leadership Breakfasts:
 1. Dr Jan Owen CEO for Foundation for Young Australians - her lifelong mission is to unleash the potential of young people to lead positive change in the world – This was attended by both education staff from all sectors and students from Independent schools.
 2. Professor Patrick McGorry AO Executive Director of Orygen a world leading researcher in youth mental health and a key architect of the headspace model. Supporting Chapter 5 Student – Centred Schools and Chapter 6 Focussing on Student Engagement **Rec 6.2**