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## QASEL Newsletter Edition 7, 2021

### President's Update

#### ECDP Subcommittee

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting with our newly formed ECDP subcommittee. As a group, we looked at some of the recent history, events and policy that have impacted on ECDPs, and collaborated on a draft position brief to present to the department.

Some of the key points of QASEL's position on ECDPs include:

- QASEL supports a review of the Guidelines for the Provision of Early Childhood Development Programs and Services as an opportunity to:
  - Maintain and support the existing playgroup and centre-based programs that are so highly valued by parents.
  - Allocate additional targeted resourcing to support outreach and transition programs.
  - Promote the efficient application of the guidelines across all regional teams (e.g. timely and consistent registration processes).
  - Address workload reduction for ECDP HOSES and staff by simplifying the registration process, hence maximising support time for students.
  - Utilise the data gained from the ECDP case studies submitted in September 2019 to identify and highlight best practice standards for ECDPs.
- QASEL continues to recommend that the Department of Education include ECDPs in all grants, staffing, facilities and funding methodologies.
- QASEL continues to recommend that the Department of Education review the classification of all ECDP Heads of Special Education Services (HOSES).



QASEL continues to recommend that the Department of Education review all of the resourcing methodologies currently in place for ECDPs.

#### Australian Curriculum Review



On 12 June 2020, Australia's education ministers agreed it was timely to review the Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum. The Review looks to improve the Australian Curriculum by refining, realigning and decluttering the content so it focusses on the essential knowledge and skills students should learn, and is clearer for teachers on what they need to teach.

QASEL members are strongly encouraged to engage in one or more feedback opportunities to help shape this important work.

#### 1. Individual / group feedback opportunities:

This is a public consultation – anyone can provide feedback to ACARA. The online survey can be completed by individuals, such as teachers and school leaders and groups, such as schools, clusters and professional associations. The learning area survey is designed so you can give high-level feedback about the overall proposed revisions or more detailed feedback about specific year levels.

Further information on how to provide individual or group feedback can be found at <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/consultation/>

#### 2. Participation in DoE feedback opportunities:

Schools also have the opportunity to participate in feedback sessions run by state school division.

Find out more about the [review](#) and [register](#) for a feedback session about the proposed changes to learning areas, general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities.

### 3. QASEL feedback opportunities:

Within any organisation there is a diverse range of views and while it may not be practical for QASEL to provide a singular curriculum position, we will continue to look for ways to maximise members opportunities to contribute. I will continue to provide updates as these unfold.

However, you choose to have your say make sure your voice is heard. The more feedback received the better the final outcome for students. The consultation period is short - Thursday 29 April to Thursday 8 July.

### From our HOSES Vice-President: Karen Collishaw HOSES Subcommittee EOI

As you would be aware, QASEL always designates one Vice-President position specifically for a HOSES (or similar position) and this year Karen Collishaw is QASEL Vice-President (HOSES).

Karen is Head of Special Education at Eden's Landing State School. She enjoys developing positive relationships and promoting high expectations for all learners, while seeking opportunities to collaborate with colleagues to continually improve practice. She is a long term QASEL member since 2009 and has been an active contributor on State Council and the conference planning committee.

Karen was delighted to host a visit from Deb Dunstone, ADG Disability and Inclusion at Eden's Landing State School recently. During the visit, Karen took the opportunity to discuss the disability and inclusion agenda and how QASEL can support HOSES in their work to influence the development of this great work in schools.

Karen and I are both very keen to connect with our HOSES' members to advance this conversation, and would love to hear from members who would be interested in forming a sub-committee of HOSES (perhaps with a primary and secondary focus). Of course, many schools have moved to different terminology and these committees would be open to any Special Education middle leaders working in the primary or secondary settings.

If you'd like to get involved, please email [president@qasel.org.au](mailto:president@qasel.org.au) and Karen [kcoll15@eq.edu.au](mailto:kcoll15@eq.edu.au) and I will arrange a time to connect online.



### New Silver Business Partner – BFX Furniture

I'm pleased to announce that BFX Furniture have come onboard as a Silver Business Partner for the next 12 months, including QASELcon21. If you know of a corporation or business that might be interested in being a business partner or conference sponsor please let us know. Below is some information from BFX about their company and services.

*BFX Furniture is a proudly Australian owned company and one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of furniture for the Education sector. We don't just deliver furniture, we deliver innovation and superior design. Our services are backed by over 30 years of extensive industry experience.*

*At BFX Furniture, with 50 consultants and 100 distribution staff, we dedicate ourselves to market research & to designing Future Focused Learning Zones that create adjustable and flexible spaces that support the needs of both teachers and students.*

**The BFX Difference:** *Personal Consultation, End to End Solution, Commitment to Quality & Safety, Focused on Customer Satisfaction*

**We Offer a FREE On-site Consultation that Includes:** *Measure & Quote, 2D or 3D floor plan, Expert advice*

WEBSITE LINK: <https://www.bfx.com.au/>

### South East Region State Councillor EOI

A big thank you to Kate Eldridge (Head of Curriculum, Beenleigh Special School) who answered the call for a South East Regional councillor rep. We look forward to welcoming Kate at our next State Council meeting.

The South East is a big region and ideally a second or third councillor to support Kate would be great. If you're interested or would simply like to know more, send me an email [president@qasel.org.au](mailto:president@qasel.org.au).

## Sponsors and Business Partners

QASEL wishes to thank and acknowledge our Gold Business Partner:



QASEL wishes to thank and acknowledge our Silver Business Partner:



BFX Furniture

## QASELcon21

**Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity.  
Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 June, Hilton Brisbane.**

**Early Bird Registration Ends May 21st**

[Register Now!](#)

### Conference Program

Apologies - we experienced some technical glitches in the special message sent to members on Thursday 6 May. As a result, some members will have received links to older versions on the conference flyer and program. The changes are only minor but below are the most up to date versions.

[QASELcon Flyer](#)

[QASELcon Program](#)

After the disappointment of cancelling our 2020 conference your conference planning committee have worked hard to pull together the high-quality program for this year. QASELcon21 is your opportunity to access high quality professional learning that supports your leadership development and the education of students with disability across Queensland.

Our theme, Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity will be brought to life through the many keynote and concurrent sessions across three days. Your full program is almost finalised, and brings together a blend of expert keynote speakers, senior department officers and support services as well as members and practitioners sharing their great practice and innovations. Below is a link to the conference flyer and draft program (subject to minor changes).

### Spotlight on a Speaker

QASELcon21 *Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity*, is your opportunity to access high quality professional learning that supports your leadership development and the education of students with disability across Queensland.

Your fellow delegates are special education leaders and decision makers who like you, value this annual opportunity to network, expand their professional learning, and connect

with new and not so new friends.

Our theme, *Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity* will be brought to life through the many keynote and concurrent sessions across three days.

Steve Francis is the expert in the complexities of leading effective schools. He is the first choice of Principals around Australia. Whether they want to enhance the skills of their leadership team or they want their staff to be genuinely and absolutely engaged, energised and enthused to REALLY create the difference that sets schools apart, they turn to Steve.



Steve understands the challenges and demands of being a Principal. He has been the Principal of a number of schools from a one-teacher school through to a large metropolitan school in Queensland and an international school in Hong Kong. Since returning to Australia in 2008, Steve works with leading educators to help them reach their potential. Steve brings passion, energy and enthusiasm to his professional development programs.

Steve is passionate about work – life satisfaction and keeping things simple.

## *Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity*



Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 June

Hilton, Brisbane

## New and Returning Members

On behalf of QASEL I'd like to welcome the following new and returning members:

- Jean Pool - Runcorn State High School
- Brittany Cooper - Geebung Special School
- Geoff Miller - Mount Isa Special School
- Melissa Farrell - Mount Ommaney ECDP
- Jenneclair Tottman - Woody Point Special School
- Melissa Slynko - Boronia Heights State School
- Catherine Eurell- Mitchelton State Special School
- Carmel Devery- Geebung ECDP
- Sandra Schuptar - Mount Ommaney Special School ECDP
- Rebecca Washbrook- Charleville State School
- Eliza Watt - Nursery Road State Special School
- Neil Larter - Pine Rivers Special School

We look forward to linking, leading and learning with you.

## President's Diary

If you have any thoughts or feedback on any recent or upcoming events in the president's diary please don't hesitate to send me an email. Your feedback is always welcome.

### Meetings and events in recent weeks

- Meeting QASEL Regional Councillors
- Respectful Relationships Education Advisory Group
- ECDP Subcommittee meeting
- QASEL Executive and Management meeting
- School Transport Assistance meeting
- Principal Health & Wellbeing Stakeholder Group meeting
- SBS Credit and Usage Automation Implementation
- Principals Association Briefing - Homework Centres
- DoE Update: Online Ordering Systems
- PEO – Inclusive Education, State Schools - Disability and Inclusion + EIB meeting
- QASELcon Committee meeting
- I4S Review 2021 – Finance Branch meeting
- 1-1 meeting with ADG Disability & Inclusion
- P&C Qld and Principal Associations meeting
- Education Ministers' Meeting Stakeholder Debrief

- North Coast Curriculum Leaders Conference
- QASEL/ SECC meeting
- School visits to Beenleigh Special School, Logan City Special School, Red Hill Special School, Mackenzie Special School and Pine Rivers Special School

## Upcoming meetings and events

- 1-1 meeting Central Queensland, Regional Director
- 1-1 meeting Assistant Director-General, Finance and CFO
- School Transport Special School Principals Q&A
- 1-1 meeting Assistant Director-General, Education Improvement Branch
- Quarterly meeting, IT Branch Exec Team and Association Presidents'
- QASELcon Committee meeting
- School Visits to Sunnybank Special School and Aspley Special School.
- QCE System Principals' Reference Group (PRG)
- QCT Principals' Engagement Reference Group

## Other Messages

### P&Cs Qld Diamond Jubilee 2022 - Help Us to Tell Our Stories

At P&Cs Qld, we're currently working towards the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (in 2022) of our organisation known as the Qld Council of Parents and Citizens' Association's (QCPCA).

Over our long history, QCPCA, through P&Cs Qld and School Councils Qld, has achieved remarkable progress in the education sector by engaging with thousands of state school P&C members, parents, students, principals, education stakeholders and Departmental representatives to ensure every child receives every chance at the best education possible.

Now we're asking for your help to complete a digital timeline which will provide a permanent historical record of the achievements and activities of our organisation and Parent's & Citizens Associations, like yours, across Qld.

The sort of information we're seeking is:

- Contacts of long serving P&C members.
- Merchandise or news clippings and photos which feature key advocacy and parent engagement issues.
- Activities that ultimately contributed to developments in education/curriculum, student health, safety and welfare or other school community issues.

In the coming months we will be holding a get together in various regions to collect these items. Please let us know if you have something to contribute.

If you have played a part in this history, (even in the last few years) or know someone who has, please check out our Diamond Jubilee page and the digital timeline at <https://pandcsqld.com.au/whats-on/diamond-jubilee/>, and complete our survey or send through your email address to [jenny@pandcsqld.com.au](mailto:jenny@pandcsqld.com.au) for the survey link or more information.



**Diamond Jubilee History Collection Project**