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QASEL Newsletter Edition 1, 2022

President's Update

Important Message RE QASELcon22: New Dates 3-5 August

The QASEL conference planning committee has undertaken the decision to move QASELcon22 from the planned dates in Semester 1 (June 15-17) to Semester 2 (August 3-5).

With the delayed start to the 2022 school year, we are mindful that many of our members and conference attendees carry a full or part time teaching load. We have made this decision to support members and schools as they adjust their curriculum plans and delivery to ensure that the required curriculum content is taught over the shortened Semester 1.

We are currently adjusting our date claimers, promotional materials and registration processes which will be distributed in the coming days.

Our 2021 conference saw over 400 delegates and guests come together for this valued professional learning opportunity and we hope our 2022 conference will be equally successful.

Please feel free to share this update with members of your team and network. Thanks in advance for supporting this change. I look forward to seeing you at QASELcon22 on 3-5 August.



Leading

We advocate for equity and influence for positive change.

COVID-19 Update

On Sunday 30 January the Premier announced Queensland's [2022 Back to school plan](#). The plan outlines the current and additional [COVID-19 safe measures](#) to ensure our school communities remain COVID-19 safe.

Following this announcement all schools received email communications from the Director-General and the department's Executive Response Team further outlining key features of the plan that will be implemented from 7 February until 4 March and Principals will have received information to support school communications.

As I have done throughout the pandemic, I remind all members of the importance of staying up to date with the latest, accurate information by keeping an eye on your email for updates from the DG and ERT and routinely checking the [Queensland Government COVID-19 website](#) and COVID-19 pages on [our departmental website](#) and [OnePortal](#) as they are updated regularly.



I know we had all hoped that 2022 would be different. However, it is clear that COVID-19 is going to have a continued impact on our ways of working through the early part of 2022. As we have seen throughout the last two years the impacts of COVID-19 change rapidly. Through necessity, plans change, sometimes with little notice and we have to adapt to new rules and new situations. What strikes me through the most difficult times is that everyone is doing their best. I urge you to be OK with that. Be ok when you can't achieve perfection and be ok when those around you (in our schools, regions and central office) can't deliver perfection either. Throughout the entire pandemic, I am yet to meet anyone who doesn't care and isn't trying to deliver the best possible outcomes for all. Extending a little kindness to ourselves and our colleagues goes a long way.

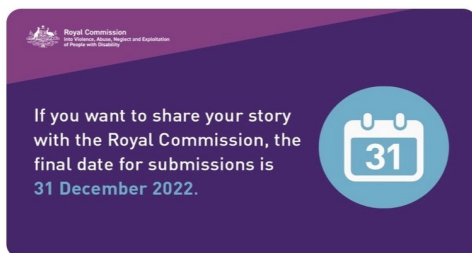
Now more than ever, wellbeing needs to be a priority. Take breaks when you can, avoid the laptop and the emails on the weekends, and do the things that each of you need to do to recharge. Prioritise the wellbeing of your staff, students, families, communities and most importantly yourselves as leaders.

At times some of our students may be absent and their families seeking to continue to engage in learning. Remember, the department has a lot of inclusive resources available for families on the [learning@home](#) website and the [learning@home TV](#) website.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, our special education leaders led with empathy and compassion while bringing their creative problem-solving skills to the challenges in front of them. I've no doubt you can do it again in 2022, but that doesn't mean that we all don't need help sometimes.

ARDs and RDs will be regularly updated about any changes and they will remain your single point of truth for managing the impacts of COVID-19 on school communities throughout Semester 1. ARDs will be responding to the daily changes and your Human Resources Business Partner is also an important contact for advice and guidance. Work with your ARDs and your regions if you have concerns. Be patient as they are doing their best to deal with a high number of calls for support.

Regular online meetings with the associations and stakeholders are occurring. I will continue to attend these as QASEL's representative, and I am more than happy to take issues or questions forward on your behalf. At any time if you have questions or concerns, or you just need a chat, please feel free to contact me.



Disability Royal Commission

The closing date for submissions to be received by the Royal Commission is 31 December 2022.

Members will be aware that QASEL made a formal submission to the Disability Royal Commission in 2019. This year the executive and management team, along with our regional councillors, will discuss a further updated submission. In the meantime, I remind all members that anyone can make a submission to the Royal Commission. I encourage you all as experienced professionals working in the field to consider making your own submission, as well as supporting your

P&Cs and School Councils to also make submissions. Having your say is important.

The Royal Commission intends to hold further public hearings to examine the experiences of students with disability, including a hearing on special/segregated education in 2022. In addition to public hearings, the Royal Commission is progressing its work on education through research and analysis including analysis of data on the education of people with disability, and consultation with people with disability and key stakeholders in the education sector.

Earlier this month the Disability Royal Commission announced key dates in 2022 for [making submissions](#) and registering for private sessions. Peoples' experiences of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation - shared through submissions and private sessions - are critical to the work of the Royal Commission. These stories of people with lived experience of disability have informed the work of the Royal Commission to date, and will also inform the contents of the Final Report and the Royal Commission's recommendations.

So far, the Royal Commission has:

- received 3,552 submissions
- received 11,757 phone enquiries; and
- held 811 private sessions

The Final Report is due to be delivered to the Governor-General by 29 September 2023. Registrations for private sessions and submissions must be finalised well in advance of this date in order to ensure the information can be processed and used for the purposes of the Final Report of the Royal Commission.

If submissions are to be taken into account in the Final Report, they will need to be received by the Royal Commission no later than 31 December 2022. People can make a submission in any way they find comfortable – including email, video or as an artwork. Multiple submissions are accepted. Phone submissions can also be made by booking a time through the Hotline on 1800 517 199.

Any information provided in confidence to the Royal Commission, whether by way of private session or in a submission, will be protected from disclosure for a period of 99 years after the Royal Commission ends, except in extremely limited circumstances.

Royal Commission- Make a Submission

Linking

We collaborate with purpose and support each other's wellbeing.

Update your details

Have you changed roles, location, phone number or any other details over the holidays? If so please let us know.

Late this term, we aim to post a hard copy annual report to all QASEL members. If we don't know where you are, it will go to the wrong place. If you're unsure if your details are correct on the QASEL database or you know they need updating please take a minute to email Brandon on bm@qasel.org.au with your name, location and role.



Welcome to the 2022 QASEL Team

I'd like to again thank all members of the QASEL 2021 Executive, Management and Regional Council team for their work last year.

I want to acknowledge the work of outgoing members of the team including Gay Flynn, Sheldon Boland, Belinda Russel and Rob McDowall who are all taking a break for now.

A special thanks to long term QASEL Management Committee member and former QASEL president Michael Brett. Michael has been a QASEL stalwart for as long as I can remember. He was president when I first joined and has been a remarkable support for me in this role. Thanks for your commitment to QASEL Michael, it will be strange indeed to go to QASEL meetings without you there.

Thanks also to members changing roles for 2022, Andrew Thompson and Susan Christensen (both having served 6 years in the roles of VP and Secretary respectively), we thank you for your service and welcome you to the management committee.

Welcome also to Tracy Cronin (stepping into the VP position from management), Simone Coogan (stepping into the role of Secretary from management) and Nicole Rouen (moving from management to State Council).

A very special QASEL welcome to new EMC members and state councillors including Vilma Minisini and Lisa Wright (taking on state councillor roles in FNQ), and Natalie Petersen, Steve Roberts and Robyn Ferguson (joining our management committee and bringing a great range of experience and perspectives).

Turnover in these roles is important, it's how we share the load. However, I want to stress there is a role for every QASEL member to contribute. QASEL can only be as successful as our collective energies and efforts.

Below is a link to the full Executive, Management and State Council list as well as a link to the meet the team page on the QASEL website to help you to get to know them all a little better. I particularly encourage you to reach out and connect with your local regional councillor to find out when your first regional meeting for the year will be held.

Meet the Team

Executive, Management and State
Council- 2022

Headspace Principal Coaching and Support Services Update

I'm pleased to share the news that the Headspace Principal Coaching and Support Service (PCSS) is recommencing, initially two days per week from 18 January, operating Tuesdays and Thursdays. Principals and School Leaders will now be able to access individualised Protective, Proactive and Professional Coaching sessions that provide an opportunity for reflection and wellbeing support.

PCSS provides up to 3 confidential sessions, delivered online or via phone with Advisor, Davina Donovan. I had the pleasure of meeting Davina last week to discuss the unique challenges faced by leaders in the special education sector. I'm very confident that Davina will provide wonderful support to our members. You can learn more about Davina by checking out her bio linked below. Also below are links to upcoming Headspace training sessions.

PCSS Bio

Headspace Training

Referrals to the service can be made via pcss@headspaceschools.org.au or by contacting 0476 839 363.

Learning

We learn together to build our individual and collective capability.

Introducing Coach Caroline

As part of QASEL's ongoing commitment to building individual and collective capability in 2022, we have engaged (Coach) Caroline de Hennin as a co-ordinator of professional learning for two days per fortnight.

Caroline has been coaching for 12 years and began working closely with special education leaders in 2015. She has expertise as a leadership coach and facilitator of professional learning across all Queensland state schooling sectors.

Last year Caroline facilitated a 2-day course for a group of current and aspiring leaders in Metro. Participants developed their capability and confidence to engage in coaching and conversations to lead improvement, innovation and change in schools. This learning included panel sessions where experienced QASEL members shared their thinking and stories on a range of issues including inclusion and engagement, coaching and mentoring, and intentional collaboration.



In these first few weeks of term Caroline has been linking with our regional state councillors to open discussions about learning opportunities in 2022 that are responsive to regional needs, so please share your thoughts with your relevant regional councillor. Coach Caroline can be reached at pd@qasel.org.au

DoE Upskilling Library

If you haven't done so already, I encourage members to find a few minutes to check out the new professional development library that was launched by the department late last year. The PD Upskilling Library will complement the departments other learning and development programs, offering staff in every role and location the opportunity to access a wide range of content via an online and intuitive platform.

The use of the library is voluntary and is designed to be explored at your own pace. You will be able to access the library from any device, including smartphones, tablets, laptops or your home computer 24/7.

With a library of over 80,000 items of content, you will be able to explore courses, videos, e-books, audiobooks and more through self-paced learning journeys and channels. You can also create your own learning playlists and recommend and share content with your colleagues.

QASEL has been a strong supporter of this work and we are pleased to promote it. I look forward to watching our leadership teams find creative ways to explore its use. As always, I'm keen to hear the reflections and learnings of those who have engaged with it.

Upskilling Library

Sponsors and Business Partners

QASEL wishes to thank and acknowledge our Gold Business Partner:



QASEL wishes to thank and acknowledge our Silver Business Partner:



QASELcon22

Date Claimer: 3 - 5 August 2022

On the back of the tremendous success of QASELcon21, the conference planning committee are hard at work to make sure QASELcon22 is even bigger and better. Watch this space for more information coming soon.

New and Returning Members

Welcome and thank you to the following new and returning members;

- Julie McDonald - Mount Warren Park State School
- Donna Curzon - Innisfail State College
- Craig Ninnes - Bowen State High School

We look forward to *linking, leading and learning* with you throughout 2022 and beyond.

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:

- North Coast Region Special Schools' meeting
- COVID-19 Stakeholder meetings
- Discussion with ADG HR - Day 8 changes for 2022
- Meeting with USQ/DoE/QASEL - Upskilling courses
- Meeting with new QASEL PD co-ordinator
- QASELcon22 planning meeting
- Association Presidents Bi-Monthly Meeting with Infrastructure Division
- Meeting Regional Director – Metro
- Meeting new Headspace Principal Coach
- Meeting with QASSP President
- Association Presidents' meeting

Upcoming meetings and events:

- OneSchool Advisory Board meeting
- Meeting with ACEL, QASEL & ASEPA
- Association Presidents' meeting
- COVID Stakeholder meetings
- Students with disability resource allocation review Stakeholder Reference Group
- Meeting with USQ/DoE/QASEL re: Upskilling courses

Other Messages

State Schools Back to School Update – Peter Kelly

Welcome to the start of the 2022 school year. I hope you had a safe and relaxing break with your family and friends.

For many of you, the next few weeks are about planning and preparing for the changes to the start of the school year in response to the rapidly changing COVID-19 Omicron outbreak.

Adapting to new ways of working and learning with minimal disruption for our students has been a challenge we have faced in the past and it is a testimony to your hard work, resilience, flexibility and dedication that our schools and communities are well positioned to respond to ongoing challenges.

No matter the role you play in our schools, our collective focus on the success, wellbeing and continuous improvement of our students is at the core of what we all do. Thank you for supporting and encouraging our students to succeed and strive to be the best they can be as they commence a new year.

I would like to extend my congratulations and welcome to new principals, school leaders, teachers and staff members starting with us in 2022. You join a fantastic system that is made up of talented, passionate and experienced people who work hard

every day to support their students, their communities and each other in the important work of education.

Thank you for the work I know has already commenced in preparation for the start of the school year. I encourage you to read this [Back to school edition](#) of *State schools update* as it contains important information, critical updates and advice to help you to continue planning and preparing for the year ahead.

OneSchool Training Team

Registrations are now open for OneSchool [Teaching and Learning](#) training events in Term 1, 2022.

We're also pleased to offer a range of training offerings and self-directed learning resources. Visit the [I&TB Training Services and Resources website](#)* to find training videos, recorded web conferences, links to help material, supporting resources and links to relevant policy and procedure.

[All web conferences](#) are recorded so you can watch them in a time and place that suits you.

For information about all OneSchool training, please [visit the Training Services and Resources website](#)*.

*NB: This site requires an MIS account to access. MIS accounts can be requested and approved through [iRegister](#).

Education Improvement Branch

In line with the delayed school term, school reviews will now commence from Monday 7 March.

All school reviews due to be held in Term 1 will be rescheduled for either late Term 1 or Term 2. Reviews rescheduled for Term 1 will be located within South East Queensland (Metropolitan, North Coast and South East regions).

Principals with a review scheduled for Term 1 have received an email to notify them of this change, and they will receive a phone call from a senior reviewer to discuss their date preferences for rescheduling their review.

