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QASEL Newsletter Edition 1, 2021

President's Welcome

Dear QASEL members,

I'd like to start my first newsletter as QASEL President by expressing my sincere thanks to you all. Over the last few weeks many members have reached out to offer support, get involved, provide some feedback or just wish me well – thank you. I'm very much enjoying the role and value the opportunity to interact with members.

Unfortunately, I'm not yet up and running with our newsletter software package so please accept my apologies that this first edition is a little plain. I am however eager to hear your feedback about the newsletter. What content would you like to see? How frequently would you like to receive it and any other ideas you might have for making it an effective collaborative tool.



The beginning of the school year is of course a very busy time as students, staff and families all settle into new routines. I hope everybody's year is off to a positive start. Although busy, I would encourage you all to take the time to read the [Back to school edition](#) of State Schools Update as it contains important information, critical updates and advice to help you prepare for the school year ahead.

All the best for Day 8, I'm more than happy to hear feedback from members about the processes and implications for you and your schools. Your feedback on Day 8, and in fact any other matter, is always welcome to president@qasel.org.au

Below are some important messages and information that I hope are relevant to you in your roles.

Kind Regards,
Ric Day

QASELCON 2021

WE ARE BACK!

Sadly our 2020 conference had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions but we are back bigger and better than ever (and COVID safe) for QASELcon21.

Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity.

Save the dates: Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 June, Hilton Brisbane. See attached date claimer for further details and confirmed keynotes. Registrations opening soon.

If you'd like to be involved in the QASEL conference committee please email the conference convener Andrew Thompson on athom138@eq.edu.au



Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity



Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 June

Hilton, Brisbane

President's Update

Staff Mental Health

A core part of QASEL's work as your professional association is to make a positive contribution to the mental health and wellbeing of members and those working in the area of special education. This agenda has never been more important than it is today.

The Department's Organisational Safety and Wellbeing Team are seeking QASEL volunteers for a reference group to share your insight and experience regarding Staff Mental Health to assist with the development of training and support options for Special School and Special Education Program staff and leadership teams.

Consultation on the Department's Staff Mental Health Strategy (SMHS) has concluded and the Organisational Safety and Wellbeing (OSW) team are now shifting their focus to the actions associated with the strategy.

Information on [the Staff Wellbeing page](#) has been updated to raise awareness of mental health and provide practical ideas and training options to assist you to look after your mental health and wellbeing.

The OSW team are very interested in the needs of staff working in the area of special education and are looking for volunteers to form a reference group to:

- Share your insights and experience in discussions about the needs of special education staff in relation to the mental health and wellbeing of staff.
- Discuss what training and support has been effective or what could assist staff working in the special education sector.
- Seek initial input and feedback on proposed training topics, support models and information to support the mental health and wellbeing of our leadership teams and staff.
- Seek ongoing feedback from this reference group as the training and support options are developed.
- You will also have the opportunity to participate in training pilots or recommend key staff to participate in order to provide feedback on the suitability for staff and leaders working in special education.

Why should I consider being part of the reference group?

- You will be first to experience valuable training products and help shape a solution that we hope will have a positive impact on staff working in special education environments.
- As a reference group member, you will be representing the needs of your colleagues and ensuring the training and support solutions will have an impact on staff mental health and wellbeing.
- You will be kept up to date with the progress of this initiative and with any key [staff wellbeing](#) initiatives that may be of benefit to you and your staff.
- While the OSW team value your input and feedback they also respect that you have demanding roles and will endeavour to keep meetings to a minimum and communication clear and concise.

The initial Teams meeting will provide you with an overview of what the OSW team are planning, what the commitment will be for those of you who are able to be part of the reference group and what training pilots will be scheduled throughout Term 1.

Sue Alderton, Principal Consultant Employ Assistance and Wellbeing will facilitate this meeting for those of you who are interested in being part of this important work. The initial meeting will be divided into two sessions to ensure we capture any information that is specific to Special Education Programs and Special Schools. Principals and school leaders are welcome to nominate other staff to participate with them.

Session 1:

For leaders and staff currently working in [special schools](#)

Wednesday 17 February 8am-9am

Session 2:

For leaders and staff currently working in [special education programs](#)

Wednesday 17 February 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm

If you'd like to be involved please email president@gasel.org.au with the Subject Header **SMHS Reference Group** before Tuesday 9 February. Numbers will be limited.

For those of you who accept this invitation you will receive an agenda and some initial information in preparation for the meeting.

Special School OneSchool Enrolment

I'm pleased to update members on the great work that has occurred regarding special school enrolment applications, which can now be processed through OneSchool. Over an extended period of time QASEL has provided feedback and input into the enrolment procedure and these changes are intended to simplify the administrative process and ensure it is more streamlined and easier for schools and regions. No changes have been made to special school enrolment steps or eligibility criteria.

Implementation

Implementation is staged so schools can either use the new OneSchool functionality or continue to use the existing paper/email system during Term1. This will allow schools and regions time to familiarise themselves with, and build confidence in the new functionality without delaying enrolment decisions during this busy period.

All new enrolment applications received from Term 2, 2021 will be processed in OneSchool.

Reports

Three new reports have been created to support this functionality so relevant staff across regions, schools and central office can monitor and report on Special School Enrolment applications, including the number, duration and outcome of the applications.

Further development

Further functionality enhancements will include generation of pre-populated letters, a report that will extract the entire contents of the application (including attachments), and an internal review functionality. This functionality will be released for Term 2, 2021.

Support

More than 200 registrations have been received for webinars occurring on [25 January 2021](#) and [16 February 2021](#)

[OneSchool Help Material](#) provides step-by-step information regarding the new OneSchool functionality.

Communications

Other stakeholders have been informed through the Back to school update, a number of distribution lists, OneSchool release notes and the [Special School OnePortal page](#)

Questions regarding Special School Enrolment can be emailed to support.diversity@qed.qld.gov.au

Questions regarding OneSchool can be directed to the OneSchool Helpdesk: 1800 680 445

Feedback

On behalf of QASEL members I have thanked Deb Dunstone, ADG, State School – Disability and Inclusion, for this work. Its intention is clearly to reduce workload and make the process easier at both a school and regional level. I look forward to hearing your feedback as you begin to utilise this new functionality.

GOVERNANCE:

Thank you to those who continue to indicate interest in the work of QASEL and our governance, guided by the current Constitution.

As you know, members of State Council (including Executive, Management Committee and Regional Councillors) reviewed the QASEL Constitution during 2019.

This process requires that the reviewed/agreed constitution needs to be lodged with the State Government Office of Fair Trading, as we are an incorporated association and then it applies to guide our work moving forward. This lodgement will occur asap in Term 3 now, as we have discovered a few past 'hiccups' around the lodgement process.

As QASEL operates on a 'senate' ticket to preserve the knowledge of particularly Executive members; at the end of 2020 half of the positions including President, Vice President designated HOSES/DP Special Education role and the Treasurer, are due for nomination, renomination and a subsequent election process, for which as per our constitution, nominations will be called from all QASEL members in Term 3/4 2020 or likely asap due to the impending State Government election.

New School: Palmview State Special School

Congratulations to Principal, Nick Alexander (QASEL Regional Councillor), and his staff on a very unique and successful first day of school. After years of planning and months of preparation Palmview State Special School opened its doors for the first time on Wednesday 27 January.

The 100% attendance rate the school achieved on the first day was testament to the terrific transition programs the Palmview team put in place. Palmview Special School is co-located with the new Palmview State Primary School and together they form the Palmview Learning Community.

It was a pleasure to be there with the team on their first morning and I'd like to thank Nick for allowing me to be part of this special day.

Palmview Special was one of five new schools to open its doors for the first time in 2021 and I took the opportunity to wish all the Principals and school leaders the very best on behalf of QASEL.

Palmview State Special
School

President's Diary

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

- New QASEL Business Manager – onboarding meetings
- QASSP and QSPA President Meetings – identifying shared agenda and joint projects
- COVID-19 Stakeholder Update
- DoE - Organisational Safety and Wellbeing Team – collaboration on Staff Mental Health Strategy.
- DDG, People and Executive Services – introductory meeting
- ADG, Disability and Inclusion – meeting regarding ARD Inclusion Toolkits, Special School Enrolment on OneSchool and Website Resources for Parents
- Combined Principal Associations Meeting
- School Visits: Palmview Special School (first day), Ipswich West Special School

Upcoming meetings and events

- Disability Royal Commission – planning meeting next steps for QASEL

- Combined Principal Associations meeting with the Director General
- OneSchool Business Advisory Committee meeting
- NAPLAN online Reference Group
- P&Cs Queensland New Year Network meeting
- QASEL Executive and Management Team meeting
- Showcase Awards Board meeting
- Digital Learning Project Board meeting
- Principal Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder meeting
- School visits and work shadowing

Department Messages

OneSchool Training Team

Registrations are now open for OneSchool [Teaching and Learning](#) training events in the 2021 Term 1 Student Free Days and Week 1.

Events include:

- Creating a Personalised Learning record
- Exploring Support Provisions
- Tour the Class Dashboard
- Utilising Class Groupings and Student Notes
- Exploring the Literacy Continuum

In addition we're pleased to introduce a range of training offerings and self-directed learning resources for 2021.

- 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.
- Regular **web conference offerings** will be offered throughout Term 1. Registrations are now open for web conferences being held on the Student Free Days in Term 1 (see above)
- **Custom training sessions** upon request - please email the [OneSchool Training team](#) for further information.

All web conference sessions will be recorded. If you register for a web conference, a link to it is added to ['My Learning Space - OneChannel - My Programs'](#). This gives you quick access to all session recordings to view at your convenience.

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](#).

Principal Health and Wellbeing in 2021

Launched in June 2020, the [Principal Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(PDF, 4.7MB\)](#), , has been delivering targeted initiatives that focus on assisting principals with the practicalities and complexities associated with leading and managing a school and the potential impact on health and wellbeing.

The strategy is designed to evolve and respond to the dynamic nature of the school environment and progressive nature of wellbeing. This is particularly relevant given the current situation with COVID-19, and the impact that the public health crisis has had on schools and the roles of our principals in leading them. This evolution is managed through the implementation of two action plans.

The 2020–21 Action Plan, which is in place until 30 June 2021, identifies an eight-point plan to deliver a balanced wellbeing model under these key pillars:

1. Optimise time to lead
2. Support services
3. Safe and respectful workplace
4. Capability.

For more information on the eight initiatives currently available, departmental staff can search [Principal Health and Wellbeing on OnePortal](#).

From July 2021, a second action plan with newly designed initiatives will be launched. More information about the 2021–22 Action Plan will be made available over the coming months.

To stay up-to-date with the latest in Principal Health and Wellbeing, please [subscribe now](#) to the bimonthly e-newsletter from the strategy team. The aim of this correspondence is to provide practical and current information about the strategy initiatives.

The team are always happy to answer any questions you may have about the strategy and its initiatives. Please contact PrincipalWellbeing.HR@qed.qld.gov.au or visit [OnePortal](#).

Principal Health and Wellbeing Strategies

Principal Hotline and Principal Complex Matters Referral Team Pilots Update

The department's *Principal Hotline & Principal Complex Matters Referral Team (PCMRT) pilots* reopened for service to principals within the Darling Downs South West and North Coast regions on Monday, 18 January 2021.

These pilots are initiatives of the *Principal Health and Wellbeing Strategy*, and have been established with the aim of providing wraparound support to principals, in addition to the support already provided by regions, to respond to school-related enquiries and manage complex matters in a school-based setting.

Principals from DDSW and NC are able to access the services between 7am–5pm, Monday to Friday via direct call on 1800 313 042 or by sending an email to PrincipalComplexMatter@qed.qld.gov.au.

To stay up-to-date with the latest news about the pilots and the strategy, [subscribe now](#) to the principal PHWB e-newsletter or visit [OnePortal](#) for more information.

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