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## QASEL Newsletter Edition 8, 2021

### President's Update

#### Help me HOSES!

Those of you that read the newsletter carefully each fortnight and/or follow QASEL on Facebook ([@QueenslandAssociationSpecialEducationLeaders](#)), will notice that I try to spend as much time as possible in schools connecting with members. These invitations are greatly appreciated as it's critical that I connect with your work in the field if I am to represent you in decision making processes centrally.

However, one of my challenges is that I get a lot more invitations from special school members (principals) than I do from those working in primary or secondary settings. So, I'm calling on HOSES and other members who lead the inclusion and special education agendas in their school to invite me out. I can come with a cuppa, sit in on a cluster meeting (face-to-face or via Teams) or do half and full day work shadowing (which provides me with an incredible opportunity to experience your work first hand).



Shoot me an email at [president@qasel.org.au](mailto:president@qasel.org.au) in you're interested.



#### Free Webinar: Reducing and Responding to Occupational Violence

From my conversations with members across the state, I'm very aware that occupational violence and offensive behaviours from parents, careers and community is a growing issue of concern in schools. I'm pleased to offer an opportunity for all QASEL members to participate in a free professional learning opportunity presented by Nick Burnett, Managing Director of Team Teach (Asia Pacific).

Nick Burnett is recognised as a thought leader in the education and learning space. He has been within the education sector for over 30 years, his roles have included teacher, senior leader, school Principal, coach, trainer and author. Nick is a former special school principal from the UK and a long-term friend of QASEL, who has presented at QASELcon on a number of occasions.

For more information about the webinar please see the attached flyer. To RSVP please email [president@qasel.org.au](mailto:president@qasel.org.au) with the subject heading **OV Webinar** before **2 June** and you will be forwarded the calendar invitation to attend with a Zoom link.

I thank Nick for providing this opportunity to QASEL members (and member colleagues in other professional associations).

[OV Webinar](#)

#### Australian Curriculum Review

As per our previous newsletter, members will be aware that, 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.



Australian  
**CURRICULUM**  
Review

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, school leaders and groups, 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. In particular, State School Disability and Inclusion in collaboration with Curriculum Teaching and Learning are facilitating a number of sessions with a specific lens on inclusion (2 x P-6 and 2 x 7-12) during the week of May 24.

Registration for these sessions can be made on the ["Reviewing the Australian Curriculum" edStudio](#). There are many other sessions that people can register for in a range of subject areas including the General Capabilities. Find out more about the [review](#) and [register](#) for a feedback session about the proposed changes.

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.



## ASEPA Board Member Nominations Open

As members are aware, your membership of QASEL includes automatic membership to the Australian Special Education Principals' Association (ASEPA). QASEL is represented at ASEPA on two levels. We have two members currently on the National Council (Susan Christensen- QASEL Secretary and Andrew Thompson- QASEL Vice-President). We are also represented on the board of directors by Roselynne Anderson, Immediate Past President of QASEL, until 30 June 2021. I thank all these members for their advocacy and work at a national level.

ASEPA is currently calling for nominations to be a Director on the ASEPA Board from affiliated members in Queensland, South Australia, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory. Noting the term of a director is two years. If you would like to nominate for this position please email Andrew Thompson, [aathom138@eq.edu.au](mailto:aathom138@eq.edu.au) and Susan Christensen [secretary@qasel.org.au](mailto:secretary@qasel.org.au) no later than **Friday 28 May**. You may wish to outline your suitability for the position in a statement no longer than one page. If you have further questions please direct them to Andrew or Susan.

Once nominations are received the QASEL executive and management committee will elect one nominee to ASEPA.

## South East Region State Councillor EOI

A big thank you to Angela Armstrong (Head of Inclusion, Loganholme State School) who, along with Kate Eldridge (Head of Curriculum, Beenleigh Special School) has answered the call for a South East Regional councillor rep. We look forward to endorsing Angela and Kate as state councillors at our next executive and management meeting and welcoming them at our next state council meeting.

South East is a big region with lots of members, so it is wonderful to have two councillors to represent them.

## Jigsaw Australia

Last week, Andrew Thompson (QASEL vice-president) and I had the opportunity to visit [Jigsaw](#) Australia and speak with Tammie Usher - Community Engagement Leader about the terrific work they do.

Jigsaw is a training and transition into work program, which believes people with a disability should be fully included in the Australian workforce. Their program includes a 3-tiered model which consists of training and work experience to develop transferable work skills, to award wage employment experience to transition and to open employment. Jigsaw is shaped by action.



For more information about Jigsaw check out their website: [jigsawaustralia.com.au](http://jigsawaustralia.com.au)

## QCT Board Election

As you are aware Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) is currently undertaking its board election. State school teachers and school leaders have an opportunity to elect two practicing teachers to represent them on the board of the QCT. The online ballot opened on Friday 21 May and closes on Friday 11 June.

I'm pleased to inform you the one of our own QASEL members, **Brent Woollett**, has nominated for election. I had the pleasure of speaking with Brent last week and he is highly committed to supporting the special education sector and is particularly interested in teacher training for new special educators entering the field. Brent's bio is below. I'd encourage all members to consider using their vote to support Brent in this election.

The vote will be conducted through the independent voting company GoVote. Eligible members have received emails with voting instructions and login details on Friday 21 May.

#### **Brent Woollett Bio**

Brent Woollett joined QASEL ten years ago as a HOSES. He is a staunch advocate for student first differentiation. From his first year as a teacher in Charters Towers, he has been a proud member of and a strong advocate for the profession. Brent is currently the Deputy Principal of Boronia Heights SS and this year marks 32 years of service with the Department of Education and as a member of the QCT.

Brent has vast experience working across primary, special and secondary schools, in remote, regional and metropolitan settings. If elected, he will bring that depth of knowledge and important perspective, gained from teaching around the state, to the board, enabling him to represent the views of QASEL and its members. Brent believes that it is particularly important to have a school leader and special educator voice on the QCT board, to support the great work that is occurring in state schools. Brent sees his election to the board as a legacy for the children of Queensland and for their teachers, and school leaders.

## **Sponsors and Business Partners**

**QASEL wishes to thank and acknowledge our Gold Business Partner:**



**QASEL wishes to thank and acknowledge our Silver Business Partner:**



## **QASELcon21**

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

**Hurry! Registration Must End Soon!**

**Register Now!**

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).

[QASELcon Flyer](#)

[QASELcon Program](#)

## 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;

- Nicole Gibbs - Mundubbera State School- Cluster SEP Program
- Karen Walton - Mount Ommaney Special School
- Serena Rider - Goondiwindi State High School
- Jasmine Brix - Springfield Central State High School
- Rebecca Perkins - Dakabin State High School
- Christina Hamilton - Mount Ommaney Special School
- Lisa Watkins - Rockhampton North Special School
- Fiona Bridges - Bundaberg Regional Office

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

- 1-1 meeting Central Queensland, Regional Director
- 1-1 meeting Assistant Director-General, Finance and CFO
- School Transport Special School Principals Q&A
- Stakeholder Advisory Group, 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.
- Jigsaw Australia site visit
- QCE System Principals' Reference Group (PRG)
- Principal Health & Wellbeing Stakeholder Group meeting
- QTU Meeting
- QCT Principals' Engagement Reference Group
- P&C Day Celebration
- 1-1 meeting with ADG Disability & Inclusion
- Association Presidents' Bi-Monthly Meeting, Assistant Director-General, Infrastructure Services Branch

## Upcoming meetings and events

- Australian Curriculum Review online workshops
- QSPA conference
- Road Trip – Townsville to Mackay
- Principal Association Presidents, Meeting with DDG People and Executive Services.
- QASEL EMC Meeting
- Respectful Relationship Education Advisor Group Meeting
- QASSP conference

## Other Messages

### The AKOM Neurodiversity pilot is now hiring

We are excited to announce that the department is partnering with DXC Technology to pilot the first recruitment intake for our [All Kinds of Minds](#) (AKOM) initiative in Brisbane for six corporate roles below. The department is seeking neurodiverse applicants who are not currently employed by the department.

Our current roles are open for application until the 4 June 2021:

- **Administrative Officer: AO2** (Permanent full-time)
- **Administration Officer: AO3 (2 positions)** (Temporary full-time: 6-month contract, with possibility of extension)
- **Data Support Officer: AO3** (Temporary full-time: 10-month contract, with possibility of extension)
- **IT Systems Officer, Information Security Services (AO5)** (Temporary full-time: 12-month contract, with possibility of extension)
- **IT Systems Officer, Automation and Cloud Engineering (AO5)** (Temporary full-time: 12-month contract, with possibility of extension)

Please share these roles amongst your networks so we can welcome new neurodiverse employees. For more information on how to apply for the roles please visit <https://apply.dandelionprogram.com/upcoming>.

Please email us at [weallbelong@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:weallbelong@qed.qld.gov.au) with your questions and comments.

### National Excellence in School Leadership Institute

Taking place on Friday 4 June, The Australian Schools Women's Leadership Summit provides a unique opportunity for women at all levels of leadership to connect, share their experiences, build their capacity and prioritise their own wellbeing. A collaboration between the **National Excellence in School Leadership Institute (NESLI)** and **Women & Leadership Australia (WLA)**, the Summit brings together the latest in women's leadership expertise and a deep understanding of current challenges and opportunities for leaders in the education sector.

This interactive, online event will feature inspirational keynote presentations, expert workshops, panel discussions, participant breakout sessions and online discussion forums. [View the agenda here](#).

This opportunity is open to all staff and members. Please feel free to share this information with your members via your social media, newsletters and email channels to enable women across the sector to benefit from this opportunity. The sample text below can be used to share this offer, and if posting on social media, please tag us: Facebook: @NESLIschools, LinkedIn: @NESLI Australia/NZ, or Twitter: @NESLI\_AusNZ

**QASEL members are invited to register for the Australian Schools Women's Leadership Summit and use the code ASE221 at the check-out to access an exclusive rate of \$395 (\$200 off the standard rate). Register before 28 May at <https://www.wla.edu.au/schoolssummit.html>**

[View the summit webpage here](#)