Board of Studies Report

The independent sector representative on the NSW Board of Studies, Dr Timothy Wright, provided the following report following the Board meeting of 21st September 2010.

Australian Curriculum

Some significant decisions were made, particularly with respect to the non-endorsement of the current drafts of the Australian Curriculum for K-10.

The President reported that the Board Consultation committees had met and that the Australian Curriculum is not yet ready as a suitable basis for the development of curriculum in NSW. More work at ACARA is proceeding, in consultation with the Board officers and representatives of other jurisdictions, and the Ministerial Council (MCEECDYA) is likely to make a final decision regarding implementation in December 2010. It was noted that significant concerns still exist around the timetable for implementation.

NSW educators had responded to the Shaping Paper on Geography for the Australian Curriculum and noted it had less of a Geography focus than the current syllabus.
Other matters

The BoS CEO, Carol Taylor, reported that the use of laptops during itinerant HSC marking has been successful, allowing for the instant uploading of data. The pilot for the use of computers for student School Certificate (SC) exams in English literacy is proceeding although there has been reluctance from students to be involved. The SC review is due to be finalised in December.

In other decisions:

• The Board endorsed the amended Software Design and Development Stage 6 syllabus for implementation (preliminary 2011, HSC 2012).

• The Stage 6 English Course Prescriptions in Area of Study, Electives and Texts 2009-2012 will be extended until the conclusion of the 2014 HSC, with some minor amendments.

• The Board is examining the implementation of a central database to record academic malpractice in school based assessment tasks.

• The Board Committees (HSC Consultative Committee, SC Consultative Committee, Examination Rules Committee and Board Appeals Committee) have been appointed.

• The BOS approved the draft Guidelines for Approval of NSW School Providers Delivery Courses to Overseas Students with effect from 1st October 2010.

• The Board approved the revised folio requirements for HSC Design and Technology and Industrial technology major projects. It is expected that these folios should require no more than six minutes viewing time.

Financial Health Assessment Framework (FHAF)

In late September, the AIS advised all schools that DEEWR had agreed to discontinue the current FHAF process. This followed lengthy and ongoing negotiations between the sector and the Australian Government. DEEWR has now informed the AIS that it intends to undertake a detailed consultation process with the independent schools sector in order to identify potential ways in which the Government can accurately and validly assess which schools might be financial vulnerable. This consultation process is expected to commence in late November and a wide range of stakeholders will be involved in the initial stages.

As more information becomes available we will ensure that schools are kept informed.

Easter Monday Holiday 2011

Schools are advised that Easter Monday in 2011 coincides with ANZAC Day, 25th April. As a result, the NSW Office of Industrial Relations advises that the Easter Monday holiday has been proclaimed for Tuesday, 26th April 2011, meaning Term 2 will officially commence on Wednesday, 27th April. It is recommended that schools factor this into their planning for next year.

A full list of NSW public holidays is available from the NSW Government’s industrial relations website at http://www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au/About_NSW_IR/Public_Holidays.html

Cross-sector MOU on computers

In last month’s Information Circular schools were informed that a cross-sectoral Memorandum of Understanding had been agreed that would assist schools to retain computers purchased under the Digital Education Revolution program. Schools are further advised that a copy of the MOU is available on request and is also available on the AIS website at http://www.aisnsw.edu.au/Main/LinkClick.aspx?link=Downloads%2fAISDM_n180515_v1_DET_Laptop_MOU.pdf&tabid=646&mid=1392
Children’s Service Amendment Regulation 2010

Linda Burney, the Minister for Community Services, has released the Children’s Service Amendment Regulation 2010 and its accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement for public comment.

The Amendment Regulation, Regulatory Impact Statement and a Feedback Form for comments are available on the Community Services website at www.community.nsw.gov.au/for_agencies_that_work_with_us/childrens_services/regulation/review_of_the_regulation.html

The public consultation period closes on 24th November 2010.

Feedback should be provided by email to CSRegRev@community.nsw.gov.au

Community Services invites comments using the feedback form provided on the draft Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement by 24th November 2010.

Completed Feedback Forms should be emailed to CSRegRev@community.nsw.edu.au

2011 Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE Project

The Asia Education Foundation and the Australia-Indonesia Institute have announced that applications are now open for the 2011 Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE Project.

The project is fully funded by The Myer Foundation and AusAID and is aimed at engaging Australian schools with those in Indonesia through physical exchange, professional learning (ICT and intercultural understanding) and online collaboration. It is not necessary for schools to be offering Indonesian language to apply as many schools implement the program in other learning areas such as History, English, Geography, Science and the Environment.

Information packs and application forms can be downloaded from www.indonesia.bridge.edu.au

Applications close on 26th November 2010.

Applications for Appointment to the NSW Youth Advisory Council

Applications are being sought from people interested in being appointed to the 2011 NSW Youth Advisory Council, particularly from young people from 12 to 24 years of age with experience and a keen interest in youth affairs.

The NSW Youth Advisory Council provides a direct avenue of communication between the young people of NSW and the NSW Government. It was established under the Youth Advisory Council Act (1989) and reports to the Minister for Youth, the Hon. Peter Primrose, MLC.

Information and application forms for membership of the Council are available on the NSW Government Youth website www.youth.nsw.gov.au/yac or from the Executive Officer, Youth Advisory Council, yac@yac.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9286 7206.

Applications close at 5.00pm on 8th November 2010.

Youth Week Design Competition

The organisers of Youth Week 2011 have announced a competition for aspiring young designers to help create the look for the Youth Week 2011 in NSW website, posters and other promotional materials.

The competition provides young people with the opportunity to showcase their talent as a designer and to win $1 000.

Further details are available on the Youth Week in NSW website at www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the NSW Youth Week Coordinator at youthweek@youthweek.nsw.gov.au
Youth Peace Initiative

Youth Peace Initiative are hosting a video conference entitled “Refugee Rights and Wrongs” on 23rd November 2010 featuring Susy Lee from Youth Peace Initiative and Alex Pagliaro from Amnesty International.

Further details are available on Youth Peace Initiative’s website at www.youthpeaceinitiative.org.au

ANZA Workshop 2011

The Australia New Zealand Agent (ANZA) Workshop aims to bring together international student recruitment agents from over 40 countries to meet 1:1 with educators from all sectors in Australia and New Zealand.

The 2011 workshop has been set down for April 13 – 15 at RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast.

Further information is available at www.anzaworkshop.com

Clean Up Australia Day 2011

Clean Up Australia have announced the 2011 dates for Clean Up Australia activities including the Schools Clean Up Day on 4th March 2011.

Further details are available on the Clean Up Australia website at www.cleanup.org.au

Sydney Writers’ Festival - 2011 School Days Program

Sydney Writers’ Festival have launched their 2011 program for School Days as part of their festival of children’s and young adult literature.

Four sessions of Primary School Days will be held in Sydney, Parramatta and Penrith from Monday 16th to Thursday 19th May 2011 and will feature Australian writers Deborah Abela, Morris Gleitzman, Richard Newsome and international best sellers, Garth Nix and Sean Williams.

Secondary School Days will be held at Walsh Bay and Parramatta on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th May 2011 and will feature Belinda Jeffrey, Michael Prior, Bernard Beckett and Cassandra Clare.

The full program for the Schools Days is available on the Sydney Writers’ Festival website at www.swf.org.au/school-days

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE THE AIS OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR SCHOOL’S CONTACT DETAILS, INCLUDING CHANGE OF PRINCIPAL, BUSINESS MANAGER AND CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL. CHANGES CAN BE EMAILED TO admin@aisnsw.edu.au

Dr Geoff Newcombe
Executive Director
3rd November 2010