

Friday 15 November 2019

Education Updates

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Lost not forgotten

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\$6 million schools diabetes program to start next year

Australian Health Minister Greg Hunt has announced that a school program supporting students with type 1 diabetes will commence in early 2020. [Click here to read more...](#)

Taking action against bullying and violence

The Education Council is calling on students, teachers and school leaders to 'take action together' on the 10th National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 20 March 2020. [Click here to read more...](#)

Understanding the experience of teachers

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership is calling on teachers to participate in the Australian Teacher Workforce Data survey, so that it can build a national picture of the teacher workforce. [Click here to read more...](#)

Shakespeare mentorships for regional and remote teachers

Bell Shakespeare is inviting teachers in regional, rural and remote schools to apply for a fully-funded, year-long mentorship. [Click here to read more...](#)

Please visit the Independent Schools Victoria website for seminars for [Term 4, 2019](#).

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Two-year ban proposed on teacher-student sexual relations post school

Teachers would be prohibited from having sexual relationships with former students pupils for two years after their professional relationship has ended, if proposals in the Victorian Institute of Teaching's review of the teacher code of conduct are adopted.

A [review discussion paper](#) says there is a 'risk that learners could be groomed in a teacher / learner relationship and then exploited immediately following the end of their professional relationship'.

There 'may need to be a more explicit boundary in the code about the relationships between teachers and learners', it says.

It notes that the code of ethics for psychologists is 'explicit in the prohibition of a sexual relationship between psychologists and patients within two years of terminating their professional relationship'. It suggests that students, as 'vulnerable people', could be protected by similar restrictions in the teachers' code.

The Australian reported that the Victorian Minister for Education, Mr James Merlino, backs the prohibition, saying 'the safety and wellbeing of our students is crucial, which is why we have a number of policies in place to ensure teachers maintain appropriate relationships with students'.

- Push for two-year ban on pupil sex. Rebecca Urban, *The Australian*, 13 November 2019
- Teacher-pupil sex ban backed. Rebecca Urban, *The Australian*, 13 November 2019

Lost not forgotten

The Commissioner for Children and Young People, [Ms Liana Buchanan, says](#) that her report on the suicides of 35 children and young people known to child protection agencies reveals a cycle of 'increasing hopelessness and despair'.

Mr Buchanan said the report [Lost, not forgotten](#), demonstrates that despite 'repeated interactions with the child protection system' the risk to the children was 'left to escalate as they fell into the gaps between services'.

Ms Buchanan and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Justin Mohamed, say in the report that as children grow older 'their trauma starts to manifest in challenging behaviour – disengagement from school, risk taking, violence or mental ill health'. This results in health professionals losing empathy, and children being seen 'as the problem'.

Mr Mohamed said that it was 'distressing but sadly unsurprising' that Aboriginal children and young people were overrepresented in the report.

'Six of the 35 deaths examined in this report are of Aboriginal children and young people, confirming that Victoria has a place in what is a national tragedy that requires urgent action,' he said.

The report makes six recommendations, including:

- more funding for early intervention service models to engage hard-to-reach families
- tracking of families' engagement with services
- a suicide prevention strategy to protect young people known to child protection
- guidance for child protection workers to ensure they ask children about what is happening to them away from family members.

ABC News reported that the Victorian Government has accepted all the report's recommendations, and that Child Protection Minister Luke Donnellan said:

Some of the issues over a period of time have been dealt with, which have been identified by the earlier cases, like earlier therapeutic intervention. But we recognise that our mental health [services] are in a difficult position here in Victoria and that's why we're having the royal commission.

- How Victoria's family services 'roundabout' failed 35 children — with deadly consequences, Mary Gearon, *ABC News* (online) 13 November 2019
- Child 'protection' shame. Tom Minear, *Herald Sun*, 15 November 2019

\$6 million schools diabetes program to start next year

Australian Health Minister [Greg Hunt has announced](#) that a school program supporting students with type 1 diabetes will commence in early 2020.

The \$6 million Type 1 Diabetes Management in Schools program will provide staff at selected schools with training about glucose monitoring, insulin administration and recognition of hypoglycaemia. Parents, principals, school staff and health professionals, will also be able to access a new online portal with tools, resources, information to help schools support students with type 1 diabetes.

Mr Hunt said the program would give parents 'peace of mind that their children are supported in managing their condition while at school'.

Taking action against bullying and violence

The Education Council is calling on students, teachers and school leaders to 'take action together' on the 10th National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 20 March 2020.

Council chair, Australian Education Minister [Dan Tehan, said](#) the day, which calls on school communities to find 'workable solutions to prevent and respond to bullying' had 'national significance'.

The theme for the day in 2020 is 'Student Voices – Take Action Together'.

Mr Tehan said: 'Now more than ever, we need to listen to the views of our young people to generate a powerful roadmap to preventing bullying for the future'.

For more information about the day, including resources, or to register visit the [Bullying. No Way! website](#).

Understanding the experience of teachers

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) is calling on teachers to participate in the [Australian Teacher Workforce Data](#) survey, so that it can build a 'national picture of the teacher workforce, across all sectors and systems, from entry into the profession to end of teaching career'.

The survey will draw together initial teacher education data and teacher workforce data with the aim of 'understanding the experience of teachers'. This includes data on:

- the numbers of teachers
- how many graduates get jobs
- the types of contracts teachers are employed under
- teacher career paths and experiences
- how many teachers are entering and leaving the profession.

Participation is voluntary and will take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

Click here to [undertake the survey](#).

Shakespeare mentorships for regional and remote teachers

Bell Shakespeare is inviting teachers in regional, rural and remote schools to apply for a fully-funded, year-long mentorship.

Bell Shakespeare delivers the Regional Teacher Mentorship with support from the Australian Government and Teachers Mutual Bank. It will provide 30 teachers with four days of professional learning at Bell Shakespeare's headquarters in Sydney and give ongoing support to teachers at school through 2020. All travel, accommodation and professional learning expenses are provided at no charge to schools.

Applicants will need to submit a statement of intent and a letter of support from their Principal, by 5.00 pm on Monday 25 November 2019.

For more information, or to apply, visit [Bell Shakespeare's website](#).