



Values for Australian Schooling Newsletter

Volume 1 August 2005

What's new in values education

Welcome to the first edition of the *Values for Australian Schooling Newsletter*.

This quarterly newsletter will bring you news and information about the national initiatives to help make values education a core part of Australian schooling. It will provide progress updates on national activity including the Values Education Good Practice Schools Project – Stage 1.

Four-year funding

The Australian Government has funded the values education initiative with \$29.7 million over four years (2004–2008). The initiative will support schools to foster and develop improved values education practice in their local settings. In particular, it supports the implementation of the *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools* (2005), which has been endorsed by all Australian Ministers for Education.

Schools start to test drive values projects

The Values Education Good Practice Schools Project – Stage 1 is part of the Australian Government's Values Education programme. Early this year all schools were invited to apply for funding to conduct innovative values education projects. In May, at the National Values Education Forum, the Minister for Education, Science and Training announced the 26 cluster school projects that had been selected to design, implement and evaluate quality projects in values education.

The cluster school work is now underway. Their projects offer a rich variety of approaches to translate the *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools* into local contexts. The learning from their experiences will be passed on to the wider education community to foster better values education practice in all schools.

In their start-up phase, the clusters formulated their plans outlining the aims, purposes, and processes of their projects. Cluster representatives travelled to Melbourne in June for the first of three briefing sessions with Curriculum Corporation, university critical friends and State and Territory values education co-ordination officers. All the clusters are using a research mapping tool specifically designed to gather data throughout the life of their projects.



Participants at the Values Education Good Practice Schools Initial Briefing Session.

Learn more about the projects, research methodology, mapping tool and the Good Practice Schools Project at <http://www.valueseducation.edu.au>.

Snapshots from around the country

Here are a few snapshots of how some of the Values Education Good Practice Schools projects are approaching their tasks.

Western Australia

Students map the values of place

Place can mean very different things depending on who you are and how and where you live. Five schools – from the far north to the metropolitan south – are mapping and comparing the values associated with their place.

Kathryn Netherwood, Cluster Coordinator at Lance Holt School, reports:

Our cluster comprises five small independent community schools in Western Australia: three metropolitan, one at Margaret River and one remote Indigenous school located in the far north.

Our schools will focus on the values of care and stewardship of the local environment, social and ecological responsibility, respect for the diverse traditions and cultures of others and the value of comparing their own experiences with those of others in different regions and ecological areas.

Active citizens

Our project plans to build students' attachment to place and their ability to exercise ethical judgement and social responsibility about how their place is managed. Through connecting to place and becoming active citizens in the process, students can increase their

resilience, self-esteem, optimism and commitment to personal fulfilment – the sort of student outcomes identified by the *National Framework*.

Our students will use conventional and digital media to develop maps showing sustainable features of cultural, social, economic and ecological values of their places.

Children and Place Mapping Group:
Moerlina, Kerry Street, Lance Holt,
Nyindamurra and Strelley



Student art work, Lance Holt School, WA.

Victoria

Actions speak louder than words

Catholic primary school students from six schools in the Manningham Local Government Area plan to research and then act on the nine core values in the *National Framework*.

Sue Cahill, Cluster Coordinator of the Manningham Catholic Cluster, reports:

Our project aims to achieve:

- an increased understanding within our school communities of the nature of the core *Values for Australian Schooling* and how these are represented within personal, school, community and national spheres; and
- an increased school commitment to the expression of these values within our communities and within our processes and teaching.

Student Action Teams will research, plan and take action around the nine values contained within the *National Framework*. Three student forums will take place over the time of the project.

Research

The first forum will introduce the nine values – What are they? Why are they important? And how do they link to what we do?

Action

At the second forum students will report back on their research and their findings and develop possible actions.

Impact

The third forum will showcase the impact of actions taken and then investigate ongoing, sustaining actions.

Manningham Catholic Cluster: St Charles Borromeo, Our Lady of the Pines, St Peter and Paul's, St Gregory the Great, St Kevin's and St Clement of Rome.

Universities support cluster schools to explore values education

In the Good Practice Schools Project the 26 clusters of schools have been joined by Education Faculties to evaluate values teaching and pass on the 'good practices' to all schools.

By Ron Toomey (Research Manager, VEGPS Project, Curriculum Corporation)



Ron Toomey (right) with Anthony Ryan, Cluster Coordinator of the Townsville Cluster and Principal of Townsville Central State School.

In an innovative collaboration set up by Curriculum Corporation, 153 schools in 26 clusters and 16 Faculties of Education have teamed up to work together on the Values Education Good Practice Schools Project – Stage 1. Together the schools and universities (called the University Associates Network) are attempting to find and demonstrate good practices in values education through implementing the *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools*.

Each faculty has assigned one or more expert staff to help cluster schools develop and evaluate their values education work. In particular, they are seeking to identify evidence-based good practices in values education.

The University Associates Network is funded by the project and is coordinated by arrangement with Curriculum Corporation.

Sharing the lessons learnt

During the project, successful work will

be relayed to all schools via the Values Education website, the *Values for Australian Schooling Newsletter* and National Values Education Forums. Thus it is vitally important that the 'good practices' are based on solid and persuasive evidence if they are to be taken seriously by the Australian education community.

The faculties and the cluster schools meet regularly and work together on an action research process designed to identify these good practices. The faculty staff member involved with each cluster will also undertake a more 'at arms length' evaluation of the quality of the good practices identified.

Every cluster is using a common evaluation tool (the Configurative Mapping tool) that provides an evidence-based account of the project outcomes.

List of clusters

ACT (clusters and lead schools)

- Birrigai Outdoor School
- Calwell Cluster – Calwell HS

NSW (clusters and lead schools)

- Bourke Cluster - Lightning Ridge CS
- Merrylands Cluster – Merrylands HS
- Airs – Bradbury Community of Schools – Airs HS
- Domremy Catholic Schools Cluster - Domremy College
- Broken Bay Diocese Cluster, St Peter's College Tuggerah

NT (clusters and lead schools)

- Territory Tribes – Henbury School
- Catholic Education Schools NT – Sacred Heart PS

QLD (clusters and lead schools)

- Central Queensland Character Framework Cluster – Heights College
- Gold Coast North Cluster – Oxenford SS
- Teach Cluster – Townsville Central SS
- Nerang Alliance of State Schools – Nerang SHS
- Kenmore Cluster – Chapel Hill SS
- Canterbury Cluster – Canterbury College

SA (clusters and lead schools)

- Noarlunga Centre Cluster – Hackham West Schools
- South Australian Alliance of Schools – Modbury R-7

TAS (clusters and lead schools)

- Tasmanian State Senior Secondary Colleges Cluster – The Don College
- Northern Midlands Cluster – Longford PS

VIC (clusters and lead schools)

- Manningham Catholic Primary Schools Cluster – St Charles Borromeo
- Red Earth Community Cluster – Mooroolbark SC
- Maroondah North Cluster – Norwood SC
- Brighton Cluster – Brighton SC
- WITS Cluster – Werribee SC

WA (clusters and lead schools)

- Fremantle – Spearwood PS
- Children and place mapping Cluster – Lance Holt School

What's happening?

In States and Territories

Values Education co-ordination officers in each of the States and Territories provide a valuable resource for all schools. See contact details and learn more at <http://www.valueseducation.edu.au>.

Victoria

Values Education School Forums are up and running in Victoria. All government, Catholic and Independent schools have been notified and some schools have already sent in applications. Learn more and download an application form at <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/sose/valuesed>.

Queensland

The Queensland Values Education Project will be launched in Brisbane on 29 August with a whole-day conference for teachers. Download flyers at the *Events* section of <http://www.valueseducation.edu.au>.

Northern Territory

Professional development sessions on *Valuing the EsseNTials* are being held for school leaders from the Arnhem and the Katherine regions in Term 3. Eighty per cent of Top End and Central Australian schools were represented at *Valuing the EsseNTials* sessions and further sessions are being provided in Darwin and Alice Springs.

On the national scene

Since 2004 professional associations have been spreading the word about the latest developments in values education to their members.

- Australian Principals Associations Professional Development Council (APAPDC) developed a page on their website and produced a newsletter about the Values Education programme that was distributed to principals.
- The Australian Joint Council of Professional Teacher Associations (AJCPTA) held a national symposium to discuss values education and conducted forums with teacher associations in each State and Territory.
- The Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) held a series of meetings to inform teacher educators in each State and Territory about the latest developments in values education.
- The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) dedicated a page on its website to values education and produced information leaflets for parents.
- The Australian Parents Council (APC) is producing leaflets for parents.

More information about these values education projects can be found at:

<http://www.apapdc.edu.au/>
<http://www.ajcpta.edu.au/>
<http://www.acsso.org.au/values.htm>

With resources

New values education resources

The *Values for Australian Schooling Kit 2005* (Primary/Secondary) is an integrated package of resources designed to support the development of values education in every school across the country. The kit is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and

Training and is being distributed free to all schools.

The *Values for Australian Schooling Kit 2005* contains :

- *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools*;
- *Values Education Forums: Engaging your school community* – a forum resources support booklet;
- *Values for Australian Schooling Professional Learning Resources* – the *Primary OR Secondary* version;
- *Talking Values* DVD-ROM – for professional learning which includes a 25-minute feature video, selected interviews and school case studies, *Support Notes* PDF and two PowerPoint® presentations; and
- A set of posters for use in workshops and school display.

All the resources will also be available online at the Values Education website.

Values education online

<http://www.valueseducation.edu.au>

The website explains the background to the national values education initiative with links to key documents. It provides details of all the national initiatives and programs in values education, teacher resources, news about the Good Practice Schools projects, articles from the experts, links, the *Values for Australian Schooling Kit 2005* resources and much, much more.