

Leading curriculum change update

At the end of August 2011 the first group of teachers from around Australia began participating in the online interactive Professional Learning Flagship Program: Leading Curriculum Change.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) has worked closely with The University of Queensland to design and deliver a 'flagship' professional learning program for up to 2000 Australian teachers in the first round.

AITSL has the responsibility to commission a limited number of very high quality professional learning programs for teachers and school leaders that address national priority areas, are national in scope and reach and exemplify innovative practice in design and delivery.

Sharing the knowledge

Leading Curriculum Change will enhance teachers' knowledge, skills and confidence

to effectively lead curriculum change, particularly local implementation of the Australian Curriculum. It promises a unique opportunity to learn with teachers from across Australia in a national professional learning community.

Teachers will experience a high quality, evidence-based, interactive online professional learning program that is designed by experts, for adult learners.

A key feature of the program is the opportunity for participants to talk with teachers throughout Australia about common challenges.

All-Australia focus

AITSL has received significant levels of interest in the Leading Curriculum Change program from teachers from every state and territory, sector and phase of schooling. There has been an encouraging uptake of the program by teachers

from rural, regional and remote school communities, including those involved with teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Participation invited

All teachers who have a formal or informal responsibility for leading curriculum change in their schools are eligible for this program. The program is designed for teachers who teach at all year levels, in all government and non-government schools, in any state or territory of Australia.

Principals will be involved as sponsors of participants, ensuring that action learning plans are aligned with school and system priorities.

For further information about AITSL's Professional Learning Flagship Program: Leading Curriculum Change, please visit the AITSL website www.aitsl.edu.au/lcc or contact lcc@aitsl.edu.au

Clearinghouse: a new resource for leaders

A new resource is available to strengthen and develop practising, emerging and aspiring school leaders.

The School Leadership Clearinghouse, launched on the 8 July by the Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, is an online repository and tool featuring new research findings and reports, self-study tools and a listing of upcoming conferences and professional development opportunities.

It is the first Australian resource of its kind to bring together into one database the diverse range of research within the field of school leadership development.

An online community

An important feature of the site is its web 2.0 functionality. Once registered, users can post comments on articles, take part in discussion forums and load their own links to resources to a community database to share with their peers. This means that the site has the potential to facilitate

networking and help foster a community of practice amongst school leaders.

Research and evidence based

In order to inform the content and design of the site, AITSL commissioned a substantial review and gap analysis from leading academics at Griffith University in Brisbane and Canterbury University in New Zealand. The authors were tasked with examining the evidence base to identify the most successful strategies for developing school leaders. They concluded that, while many attempts have been made to describe what makes an effective school leader, there is in fact a lack of robust evidence about what development strategies work best and why. Their findings are available in a report titled "Strategies to Develop School Leadership: a select literature review" (July 2011) which can be downloaded from the Clearinghouse website. The report also presents ten key criteria that can be applied by anyone making judgements about the potential effectiveness of

professional development strategies for school leaders.

Next generation leadership

AITSL Chair, Anthony Mackay, says the Clearinghouse offers a great opportunity for educators to help each other and foster the next generation of leaders. "Australian school leaders will now find it easier than ever to discover the best materials to inform their practice and development," Mr Mackay said. "I encourage the Australian schools community to embrace this new resource - the more people who use it, the better it will be."

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) has developed the Clearinghouse in partnership with Education Services Australia. The project was funded through the Smarter Schools National Partnerships.

The clearinghouse can be accessed at clearinghouse.aitsl.edu.au

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) provides national leadership for the Commonwealth, state and territory governments in promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership.

Teacher quality and effective school leadership have been identified as a major lever in improving educational outcomes. AITSL plays a significant role in delivering national reforms in teacher quality and school leadership, with a particular focus on advice to government regarding the development and promulgation of national standards and professional learning.

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- Join a community of school leaders from across Australia
- Access the latest local and international research, tools and materials on school leadership
- Share your knowledge and ideas with others
- Post information about upcoming events and professional learning opportunities.



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