

Parent Contact



Tasmanian State School Parents and Friends Inc.

TASSP&F Management Committee met with John Smyth, Secretary of the Department of Education, on Saturday 16th May. Several key issues currently affecting schools were raised on behalf of our members.

Financial Crisis

resourcing of schools. Whilst the Premier's commitment to "quarantine" education will be upheld, there have been some concerns raised in recent weeks regarding changes to Pathway Planners and Curriculum support. These are critical areas for students and schools. TASSP&F will closely monitor the impact on students as changes are implemented to ensure there are no detrimental outcomes.

The impact of the changes to Pathway Planning and Curriculum Support will be discussed at our Annual Conference. There will be opportunity at Conference to raise concerns directly with the Premier.

Building Education Revolution

schools, this is already having an impact on schools. Funds need to be made available to provide relief and support staff when principals are required to spend considerable time off-campus.

The Department must also address the need for schools to move classes off-campus during building works.

Let us know what your experiences are with the Building Education Revolution.

Quality Teacher Training

TASSP&F applaud the program being implemented at Rokeby High. TASSP&F want to see the same opportunities offered in the North and North-West of the State.

We are seeking assistance from Mr Smyth to facilitate the opportunity for representatives from our organisation to talk with these students to enhance parent/teacher relationships as part of their training.

School Performance Data

We will monitor the development of Data to ensure its availability on the Internet will be treated with sensitivity. The availability of this information carries obvious risks.

TASSP&F still holds concerns about the misuse of School Performance Data. We are strongly opposed to the simplistic use of League Tables to compare schools.

School Performance Data needs to be used to build schools, not to compare and encourage movement of students from one school to another.

First Aid and Anaphylaxis Training

With this growing area of concern it is critical that more training be provided for teachers. We have stressed that this needs to be a standard part of teacher training to ensure the safety of our children whilst at school or participating in school based activities such as camps and excursions.

Appointment of Principals

As a result of the impending school mergers there will be more principals than there are positions available. It remains important that school associations are involved in the appointment of their principal and we have asked schools.

Please let us know if any of these issues are having an impact at your school. We welcome your feedback, not just when things are not working so well, but the positive outcomes as well as these may help others.

Workshops.....

Educational & behavioural consultancy

Managing Challenging Behaviours Understanding Behaviour Workshop and or DVD

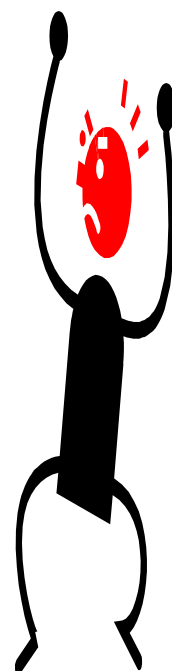
This workshop / DVD has been designed for individuals who provide services for people with challenging behaviour.

The target group includes:

- Parents
- Teachers, Aides
- Child Care Workers
- Special Education Teachers
- Support Staff
- Nursing Staff, Carers, Respite Workers

TOPICS TO BE EXAMINED IN THIS WORKSHOP

Types of challenging behaviours
Understanding behaviour - Why we behave the way we do!
Describing aggressive behaviour - A behavioural model
Designing a formal positive program
Positive strategies - Using the 14 point holistic approach



DEVONPORT	Tuesday 14 July 2009 THE GATEWAY INN 16 Fenton Street	9:30am - 12.30pm
LAUNCESTON	Wednesday 15 July 2009 BALMORAL MOTOR INN 19 York Street	9.30am - 12.30pm
HOBART	Thursday 16 July 2009 SALAMANCA INN 10 Gladstone Street	9.30am - 12.30pm
COST \$99.00pp	(Inc GST) Includes Tea, Coffee, Water, Biscuits (9.15am Registration).	

SPECIAL EDUCATION & DISABILITY SERVICES

Ph: (08) 8288 0925 Fax: (08) 8288 0847
email: ebc@iprimus.com.au
www.educonsult.biz



Australian Early Development Index Building better communities for children

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is currently underway in one of the biggest early childhood surveys ever implemented nationally.

The AEDI is a national progress measure that gathers essential information about Australia's young children and will give communities a snapshot of how their children have developed in their early years.

From 1 May to 31 July this year, schools are taking part in national data collection for the AEDI. This data collection covers children's development – physical health and wellbeing, emotional maturity, social competence, language and cognitive skills, and communication and general knowledge skills.

Information from the AEDI will provide evidence that can be used to support early childhood policy, planning and action for health, education and community support.

The AEDI is being conducted by the Centre for Community Child Health (at The Royal Children's Hospital - Melbourne, and a key research centre at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute) in partnership with the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Perth.

The Australian Government has provided \$15.9 million for the national implementation of the AEDI. More information, as well as community case studies, a fact sheet for parents and a new video are available at www.aedi.org.au.

Sex Education for Parents!



Family Planning Tasmania - Making Choices provides information sessions for parents on topics including social and sexual safety for young children, puberty, adolescence, sex, sexting and cyber bullying and much more.

Family Planning Tasmania Inc.

To book a session with an educator or for further information contact FPT's Education Manager on **6228 5422** or email annette@fpt.asn.au

Get to know more about Schools.....

Comprehensive information is available for parents and carers in a number of very useful categories covering many aspects of schooling from Early Years right through to Adult and Community Learning on the Education Department's website: www.education.tas.gov.au

Information covering School Associations including meeting procedures, constitution templates and checklists, frequently asked questions and more can be found online at www.education.tas.gov.au/school/parents/involved/schoolassociations.

National STI Prevention Program: Sexual Health Campaign

The Australian Government recently launched a new **National STI Prevention Program: Sexual Health Campaign** to raise young people's awareness about the risks of infection and to generate a sense of personal responsibility to help prevent the spread of STIs.

To access valuable information on STI prevention, testing and treatment, the risks of sex without a condom and tips on how to negotiate condom use, visit the website....

www.australia.gov.au/sti

Placement and Support Service (PASS)

ANGLICARE

The Placement and Support Service (PASS) is a state-wide service for young people aged between 13-18 years who are at risk of homelessness or are homeless.

PASS can offer accommodation options for young people needing a place to stay, including emergency, respite, short term and long term placements with volunteers.

PASS aims to support young people to reconcile with their parents or family where appropriate.

HOBART

18 Watchorn Street
Phone: 6213 3555 Fax: 6213 3550

LAUNCESTON

122 Elizabeth Street
Phone: 6333 3000 Fax: 6333 3010

DEVONPORT

Level 1 Days Building
Cnr Rooke & Best Streets
Phone: 6424 8581 Fax: 6424 5753

STATE WIDE Toll free: 1800 243 232

2009 State Conference

Saturday 22 August
ALBUERA STREET
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Registration forms and Agenda items will be posted to your school on 1 July - closing date for registration is 12 August.

Queries....?

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We look forward to seeing you at this important annual event!

Education Tax Refund

Under the new Education Tax Refund those who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses; up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

Examples of what you can claim:

- o Purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repair/running costs of laptops and pc's
- o Educational Software
- o Stationery and art supplies
- o School textbooks / associated materials
- o Trade tools and safety equipment

For more information:

Visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

Remember to keep all receipts!

Stay in touch.....

If parents, carers or friends have any concerns regarding their children's school education please contact our friendly staff on 6234 9488 or admin@parentsandfriendstasmania.asn.au

All submissions to Parent Contact to be made no later than the 25th of each month.

Please send information to Cassandra:
cassandra@parentsandfriendstasmania.asn.au
or phone 6234 9488 fax 6234 9378



The views expressed by individuals and groups contained in this publication are not necessarily recommended nor endorsed by the editor TASSP&F.

www.parentsandfriendstasmania.asn.au