

PUBLIC RECORD

LEARNING LESSONS IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE (LLISC)

Parliament House, Darwin
2 and 3 December 2002

NEW FORMAT:

The LLISC trailed a new format for this meeting. Presentations to the Committee were given on the afternoon of 2 December 2002. The Indigenous Pre-Meeting took place on the morning of 3 December 2002 and the Full Meeting took place on that afternoon. This format is endorsed for future meetings.

PRESENTATIONS:

Katherine Henderson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET)

On behalf of Mr Peter Plummer, Chief Executive Officer DEET, Ms Henderson presented a recent progress report to Cabinet on Indigenous education. The presentation detailed progress to date, challenges and plans to improve the delivery of education services to Indigenous students in the Northern Territory.

Dr Paul Torzillo, Medical Director, Nganampa Health Council

Dr Torzillo's presentation covered: the achievements of Nganampa Health Council, outcomes of the Housing for Health project including some common themes and requirements for success, and possible lessons for the education sector.

Wendy Hunter, Senior Strategy Manager, Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy Learning Lessons Implementation Branch, Indigenous Education Division, DEET

Ms Hunter presented on work to date on the *Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy*.

Barbara Weis, Director, Learning Lessons Implementation and Wendy Hunter

The presentation on Self Managing Schools was in three parts: chronology of events, current activity and immediate future actions. Issues related to the "total health status audit" for Self Managing Schools communities were then presented for discussion.

Bruce Dunn, Director, Business Information Services and Randal Cook, Manager, Multi Purpose Assessment Program (MAP)

Presentation on the preliminary MAP Results.

Summary of Key Conclusions:

The Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy will be comprehensive of the range of health issues that impact on Indigenous students' learning and that this Strategy support schools to deal with particular health issues that are of priority to their students.

Baseline health data will be collected through a Total Health Status Audit to determine service requirements of students in Self Managing Schools communities and to assist in the evaluation of health/education interventions.

*This is the public record of the fourth meeting of the LLISC and incorporates the decisions of the Minister for Employment, Education and Training. Except where additional information is required, as noted here, the Minister has endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for action by DEET.

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Cabinet Presentation On Indigenous Education

Katherine Henderson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET)

In October 2002 Peter Plummer, Chief Executive Officer DEET and Karmi Dunn, General Manager Indigenous Education presented a progress report to Cabinet on Indigenous education.

Mr Plummer was unable to attend the LLISC meeting. Katherine Henderson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, presented on his behalf.

The presentation detailed progress to date, challenges and plans for the future in improving the delivery of education services to Indigenous students in the Northern Territory.

2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Healthy Houses

Dr Paul Torzillo, Medical Director, Nganampa Health Council

The LLISC extended an invitation to Dr Torzillo to make a presentation on his work with and approach of the Nganampa Health Council.

Dr Torzillo's presentation covered:

- The achievements of Nganampa Health Council
- Outcomes of the Housing for Health project including some common themes and requirements for success
- Possible lessons for the education sector

3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy

Wendy Hunter, Senior Strategy Manager, Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy Learning Lessons Implementation Branch, Indigenous Education Division, DEET

Ms Hunter presented on her work to date on the following topics:

- Forming Strategic Partnerships
- Potential breadth of the Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy
- Current planning and policy activities
- Possible future initiatives
- Highlights of current health-education initiatives across the Northern Territory
- Significant issues to be considered in the implementation of the Strategy

Action:

Hon Ms Scrymgour offered to obtain and provide a copy of the MOU being developed between Katherine West Health Board and local schools to the LLISC.

Ms Angeles brought concerns raised with her regarding the draft NT Hearing Health Action Plan and the recently released Report on Commonwealth Funded Hearing Services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Strategies for Future Action (October 2002). LLISC to be provided with a statement of outcomes from those discussions.

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Strategic Focus Issue - Self Managing Schools – Total Health Status Audit

Barbara Weis, Director, Learning Lessons Implementation

Wendy Hunter, Senior Strategy Manager, Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy

At the LLISC meeting in September 2002, the Committee requested an update and discussion on Self Managing Schools. Ms Weis' presentation was in three parts:

- Chronology of events
- Current activity
- Immediate future actions

Ms Hunter presented the issues related to the "total health status audit" for Self Managing Schools communities - called for by the LLISC at its June 2002 meeting.

3 DECEMBER 2002

INDIGENOUS PRE-MEETING

Deliberations held in-camera. Decisions presented and discussed in the context of the Full Meeting of the LLISC.

FULL MEETING OF THE LLISC:

1. APOLOGIES

- Mr Patrick Puruntatameri (absent 2 December only)
- Ms Pat Anderson
- Mr Warren Williams
- Mr Shane Williams, Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training

2. DRAFT EXECUTIVE MEETING SUMMARY AND DRAFT MEETING RECORD

The draft Executive Meeting Summary and draft Meeting Record for 19 September 2002 were confirmed as accurate.

3. OUTGOING AND INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming and outgoing correspondence was noted.

Action:

Mr Collins will remain active in the relation to the Family Group Homes issue on behalf of the LLISC and will keep the Committee advised of issues arising.

4. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Action Sheet

LLISC Members discussed the Summary of Actions Arising from previous meetings.

Action:

Ms Dunn to organise the provision of a list of DEET staff houses in remote communities to the LLISC

Mr Gibbs to provide a background briefing paper about Nygantjarra College to LLIB for distribution to LLISC members.

That a resolution be drafted and circulated out of session to all LLISC members, along the lines that the new MCEETYA Taskforce on Indigenous Education, Employment, Training and Youth conduct major research into pedagogy for Indigenous ESL students in the NT.

Recommendation:

That the Minister for Employment, Education and Training write to the federal Minister, Dr Nelson requesting that the MCEETYA Taskforce on Indigenous Education, Employment, Training and Youth:

- *Urgently pursue research to determine effective English literacy and numeracy teaching pedagogy appropriate for Indigenous students for whom English is a second language. That the research encompass and be applicable to different Australian classroom contexts that include:
 - a) *communities where English is not the dominant language in schools and the wider community;*
 - b) *Communities where English is not the dominant language in the community but is used in schools; and*
 - c) *Communities where English is the dominant language and is the only language spoken in schools.**
- *Move that ESL teaching methodology be a compulsory component of undergraduate teacher training courses.*

The LLISC requests re-consideration by DEET of the current distribution of ESL funding which favours urban schools at the expense of remote schools. The Committee request information about this re-consideration is prepared for its next meeting in March 2003.

5. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 ISSUES ARISING FROM INDIGENOUS MEMBERS PRE-MEETING

The Indigenous members of the LLISC debated issues arising from previous meetings; this meeting's presentations and other topical issues related to the implementation of the *Learning Lessons* review recommendations.

All of the actions and recommendations suggested by the Indigenous members in relation to these items were supported by the full LLISC and appear in this Meeting Record under the relevant subject heading.

Recommendation:

The Director LLI write to Tennant Creek ATSIC Regional Council advising of the LLISC's suggestion of the establishment of a Committee under ATSIC ACT Section 96 to support greater Indigenous involvement in local schools 'Section 96 Committees' or regional education bodies may be funded by ATSIC to advise members of their rights and roles in relation to education bodies.

Actions:

Ms Scrymgour undertook to speak to the Minister regarding the recently commissioned Departmental report into the Shalom College incident and Indigenous education in Tennant Creek.

The LLISC request a briefing from DEET on the Secondary Indigenous Students' Retention project and progress to date be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

5.2 PRESENTATIONS FROM DAY ONE:

5.2.1 PRESENTATION - CABINET PRESENTATION ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Katherine Henderson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, DEET

Decision:

The LLISC endorses DEET plans for the immediate future in Indigenous education.

Recommendation:

The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DEET and the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) be forwarded to LLISC Members for comment.

5.2.2 PRESENTATION - HEALTHY HOUSES

Dr Paul Torzillo, Medical Director, Nganampa Health Council

The Committee noted there is much to learn from the example of the Nganampa Health Council's approach to improving health outcomes.

5.2.3 PRESENTATION HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING EDUCATION STRATEGY

Wendy Hunter, Senior Strategy Manager, Health Issues Affecting Education

Recommendations:

That the Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy be a comprehensive strategy inclusive of the issues currently under consideration and with the addition of 'behavioural problems'.

That schools be encouraged to set priorities in tackling health issues, based on the needs of their students and to refer to the HIAES, once it is developed, for guidance in implementation.

Actions:

That the Minister for Employment, Education and Training write to the Minister for Health and Community Services seeking a formal agreement to ensure their respective Departments work collaboratively on the Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy. The Committee requests that this correspondence be copied to the relevant Commonwealth Ministers.

The LLISC wish to be provided with the details of current protocols and agreements governing the sharing of health information with schools. Upon consideration of these the Committee will determine whether further work is required in this area to improve information sharing and joint initiatives between local clinics and schools in remote communities.

Copies of the DEET and DHCS Intersectoral Hearing Services Action Plan to be circulated to LLISC members.

That the LLIB seek a presentation from the Tiwi Exploring Together Program at a future LLISC meeting and that Ms Kilipayuwu Puruntatameri advise the LLIB who should deliver this presentation to the LLISC.

Mr Greg Gibbs to report back to the LLISC on the reason whether and, if so, why the Commonwealth Department of Health and Community Services was under spent in its Building Stronger Communities grants program. Consideration may then be given to how these funds may be accessed to promote programs such as Tiwi Exploring Together.

The LLISC request that DEET provide details of sustainability measures the Department will adopt to ensure that the Barunga school based anaemia intervention program continues.

Decision:

LLISC considers the draft response to the Disability Action Plan is sufficient. .

5.2.4 PRESENTATION - SELF MANAGING SCHOOLS – TOTAL HEALTH STATUS AUDIT

***Barbara Weis, Director, Learning Lessons Implementation Branch
Wendy Hunter, Senior Strategy Manager, Health Issues Affecting Education***

**Note: In relation to Self Managing/Community Controlled Schools the Minister for Employment, Education and Training has requested a briefing on models and options to inform his decision.*

Actions:

That a plain English explanation of existing School Council powers be distributed to LLISC Members, ASSPA Committees and the four Community Controlled School sites.

That LLIB present models and options for Community Controlled Schools to the next meeting of the Committee. Specific attention should be given to the matter of how far community control can go before schools have to leave the government system; the pros and cons of such a move should also be given. .

Total Health Audit

Recommendations:

That the Total Health Audit be conducted at the beginning of the implementation of the Community Controlled School project in each school community, be inclusive of 0-5 year olds, include checks for behavioural problems and that the audit be the Healthy School Aged Kids program.

Actions:

Ms Dunn, Ms Djayhgurrnga and Ms Anderson to meet with the new CEO of DHCS to discuss implementation of the Healthy School Aged Kids program in Community Controlled Schools, its extension to all /other remote schools and the potential for inclusion of health data in the relevant SAMS field.

Recommendations

That the protocols from the Menzies School of Health Research Ethics Committee be used to inform the development of protocols for the Total Health Audit. The protocols will be made available to the LLISC at its next meeting.

That the LLISC write to the Department of Health and Community Services to enquire as to why the Healthy School Age Kids program does not run in every community and how are communities currently prioritised for inclusion in the program?

6. INFORMATION ITEMS IN BRIEF

6.1 PRESENTATION: M.A.P. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

***Bruce Dunn, Director, Business Information Services
Randal Cook, Manager, Multi Assessment Program***

The provisional Year 3 and 5 Literacy and Numeracy results for 2002 were detailed and explained. These show a measurable improvement in the achievement of the National Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks both urban and remote schools.

Ms Henderson expressed her thanks and congratulations to the teachers and students in MAP testing this year but cautioned that these are early times and that trends should be considered in terms of a greater number of years then we have results for and that we have a long way to go.

6.2 I.E.S.I.P. NEW FUNDING MODEL

The LLISC will be provided with a briefing out of session because the new model is still being considered.

6.3 MOBILE PRE-SCHOOLS

The LLISC noted the written brief .

7. NEXT MEETING

The proposed next meeting dates of the LLISC are 12 and 13 March 2003. These dates would be confirmed depending upon the availability of members. The next meeting of the LLISC prefer that the next LLISC meeting be held in Tennant Creek.

The LLISC members unanimously supported the new meeting format.