

EDITORIAL

When the report for Julia Gillard goes home to her mum and dad, what will it say? Here's a sneak peak at its probable contents.

*Julia has had a very busy year, not least in providing substantial help for those in the primary years, where she has shown a surprising interest in school buildings. She has steered a Council of Australian Governments national education agreement to address some critical policy areas such as Year 12 or equivalent retention; literacy and numeracy; Indigenous educational disadvantage; successful post-school transition; and the collection of nationally-consistent data and information to be used for reporting on agreed educational outcomes, including student and school reports. While her effort in these areas is commendable, it is likely that she still has some way to go if she wishes to achieve her goals. This is also the case for her involvement in the provision of 1:1 laptops, and the infrastructure to support this initiative. It is pleasing to observe that Julia has excellent listening skills, is always polite and cooperative, and is extremely well organised. On the whole, Julia is making excellent progress and should continue to show good progress if she employs her undoubted skills to full effect. Given her existing workload, Julia has also done a fair amount of work through her extra-curricular involvement in reforms to workplace relations. Looking to next year, Julia would do well to consult widely if she is to implement a national curriculum and if she is successfully to tackle reform to school funding arrangements beyond the 2009 to 2012 quadrennium. **T***

FAST FACTS

Percentage of 15- to 19-year olds in full-time education in 2009: 69.7 per cent.
 Percentage in full-time work in 2009: 13.9 per cent.
 In part-time work, but not education: 7.3 per cent.
 Not in full-time education or work: 16.4 per cent, up from 12.2 per cent in 2008.
 Percentage of school leavers in part-time work only or unemployed in the first year after leaving school: 36 per cent.
 Percentage of 20- to 24-year olds who have attained Year 12 or its equivalent, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics *Education and Work* survey data for 2008: 83 per cent.
 Of 24-year olds who have attained a university degree: 28 per cent.
 Of female 24-year olds who have attained a university degree: 33 per cent.
 Of male 24-year olds who have attained a university degree: 23 per cent
 Of 24-year olds who have attained a vocational education and training certificate: 31 per cent.

Source: Foundation for Young Australians, *How Young People are Faring 2009*.

Answers: 1. the Master Teacher and Mentor program; 2. if you think it's in Toorak, Melbourne, think again - it's actually in Mount Eliza on Melbourne's Mornington Peninsula; 3. 1.3 per cent; 4. 10 per cent; 5. eight per cent; 6. 36 per cent; 7. 32 per cent; 8. no, the use of fireworks at a fête should only be undertaken by a licensed pyrotechnician; 9. true; 10. yes - leasways, a Google search on technologyism for the last edition of *Teacher* revealed that he must be, if he still uses Google to check on whether he's a techno troglodyte.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Toorak College has introduced a program to provide an alternative career pathway for teachers who want to stay in front of the blackboard. What's it called?
2. Where *is* Toorak College?
3. According to the 2006 Program for International Student Assessment, what percentage of Australian students are classified as 'at risk' of not having basic levels of scientific understanding?
4. According to the 2007 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, what percentage of Australian Year 4 students achieve an 'advanced' standard in science?
5. What's the percentage for Year 8?
6. What's the percentage for Year 4 in Singapore?
7. What's the percentage for Year 8 in Singapore?
8. Can anyone handle fireworks at a school fête?
9. Education is Australia's third largest export category earner. True or false?
10. Is Steve Holden a techno troglodyte?

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