

EDITORIAL

'The process of assessing teachers is most fraught.' That's the conclusion of the *Rewarding Quality Teaching* report by Perth-based consultants Gerard Daniels, commissioned by Commonwealth Deputy Opposition Leader Julie Bishop back in 2006 when she was Minister for Education. Following an analysis of existing performance-based pay systems for teachers, the report points out that while the best systems are national, they have a local focus on improving performance by linking any reward or recognition to specific outcomes measured using an evidence-based approach – which is code for not basing reward or recognition on the opinion of principals. The *Rewarding Quality Teaching* report also recommends making reward or recognition meaningful to teachers in terms of a clear career structure. Now might just be the time to start up that little consultancy you've often thought about. **T**

BOOK COMPETITION

In this month's *Outside the square*, teacher and writer Elizabeth Fensham explains why she has no interest in giving up teaching – or writing – just yet. You can win a signed copy of her latest book, *Goodbye Jamie Boyd*, plus a class set of bookmarks, courtesy of *Teacher* in association with University of Queensland Press, simply by emailing editor@acer.edu.au with 'Book competition' in the subject box and your name, institution and postal address in the text box, or by writing to:

Book competition

The Editor

Teacher

Private Bag 55 Camberwell

VIC 3124

with your name, institution and postal address on the back of the envelope. Competition ends 10 November, 2008.

FAST FACTS

Annual expenditure in Australia on educational institutions per student for all services from pre-primary to tertiary education in 2005, in United States dollars: \$8,340.

In the US: \$12,788.

In Japan: \$8,378.

In the United Kingdom: \$7,741.

In Finland: \$7,711.

In New Zealand: \$6,342.

In Korea: \$6,212.

In Mexico: \$2,404.

In the Russian Federation: \$2,051.

In Brazil: \$1,542.

Average amount OECD countries spend per student over the theoretical duration of primary and secondary studies, in US dollars: \$87,720.

In Brazil, Chile, Mexico, the Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic: less than \$40,000.

In Austria, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and the US: \$100,000 or more.

In Australia: \$92,113.

Source: OECD. *Education at a Glance*, 2008, available at www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/46/41284038.pdf

Answers: 1. the collective wisdom and expertise of the staff in common; 2. experienced teachers in foreign state schools who work alongside local teachers to improve the quality of teaching and learning; 3. five; 4. 240,000; 5. you bet; 6. quick quiz was out having pizza when it screened; 7. no, according to Catherine Scott; 8. breach of a duty of care owed to the student that causes the student loss or damage; 9. *Urinetown*; 10. apart from stuff about schools, Maggie Smith, but she got the Oscar for *Brodie*.

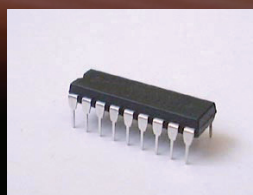
QUICK QUIZ

1. In the view of Bill Martin, what is the greatest strength of a school?
2. What are advisory teachers?
3. How many stages do Stephen Dinham, Elizabeth Kleinhenz and Lawrence Ingvarson propose in their standards-based career model for teachers?
4. How many extra people will need to complete qualifications, above the planned number likely to qualify, to meet the workforce needs of 2016?
5. Can swinging blood sugar levels produce swinging moods in children?
6. Did Doctor Who get to the bottom of all that shapeshifting in the second part of 'Coalition evolution'?
7. Do boys want to get out of their seats all the time because they're like cuttlefish, which have larger 'naturally' occurring ranges than do women?
8. What is negligence in a school?
9. In which musical is Caldwell B. Cladwell a character?
10. What do *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and the *Harry Potter* films have in common?

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