

EDITORIAL

According to its terms of reference, the Commonwealth government's Review of Funding for Schooling is seeking to identify 'a funding system for the period beyond 2012' – well, until the end of 2013, actually – 'which is transparent, fair, financially sustainable and effective in promoting excellent educational outcomes for all Australian students.' In essence, the review panel is looking for a way to replace the existing, but fraught, socioeconomic status funding formula introduced by John Howard in 2001, mindful of the political damage caused to Labor in the 2004 federal election by Mark Latham's so-called national hit list of 67 private schools. The key for the panel is to find a way to measure advantage and disadvantage and then fund accordingly. The Commonwealth government already has in place its Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA), used on the My School website. It's already weathered some controversy over both My School and the ICSEA, but hasn't suffered the sort of damage caused by Latham's hit list. Using the ICSEA or a version of it to weight increased funding for disadvantaged schools and decreased funding for advantaged schools is something the panel will no doubt consider long and hard. Commonwealth, state and territory education ministers want the ICSEA to include a measure of school resources. The question is whether this will include assets as well as recurrent income. Speaking as the Commonwealth Minister for Education in April, Prime Minister Julia Gillard promised 'a breakdown of each school's income and the sources of that income,' and said the ICSEA 'allows us to compare apples with apples.' Whether the ICSEA will include all the apples remains to be seen. **1**

FAST FACTS

- Number of school-community partners applying for a Schools First award this year: 880.
- Number of school-community partners to receive seed funding awards of \$25,000 each: 40.
- Number of school-community partners to receive local impact awards of \$50,000 each: 68.
- Percentage of government school school-community partners award winners: about 85 per cent.
- Percentage of non-government school school-community partners award winners: independent schools award winners, about seven per cent, Catholic schools award winners, about nine per cent.
- Award-winning school-community partnerships involving university or further education partnerships: 18; volunteering: 11; gardening: 11; environmental: 10; the Arts: 9; Indigenous: 9; careers: 7; health: 7; special needs: 7; science: 5; sports: 5; seniors care: 4; design: 1; automotive: 1.
- Other partnerships: 21.

Source: *Schools First*. www.schoolsfirst.edu.au

Partnerships, by theme, total more than 108 because some partnerships address more than one theme.

Answers: 1. Commonwealth Minister for Schools, Early Childhood and Youth, Peter Garrett; 2. Commonwealth Minister for Education, Julia Gillard; 3. both the *Oxford English Dictionary* and the *Macquarie Dictionary* have 'resumé'; also 'resume'; 4. Alice Springs; 5. false; she actually says the opposite; technology is a partner of mathematics teaching and learning; 6. against; 7. false; 8. false; 9. false; 10. absolutely.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Who is the Commonwealth minister responsible for Australia's schools?
2. Who is the Commonwealth minister responsible for Australia's school buildings under the Building the Education Revolution program?
3. Is 'resumé' correct spelling?
4. Where is Yirara College?
5. Merrilyn Goos says technology can only ever be a servant of mathematics teaching and learning. True or false?
6. Is Kevin Donnelly for or against standardised tests like NAPLAN?
7. Reggio Emilia was a female Italian educator. True or false?
8. Reggio Emilia was a male Italian educator. True or false?
9. Reggio Emilia is a town in northern Italy that lends its name to the Reggio Emilia approach to preschool and primary education developed by Loris Malaguzzi. True or false?
10. Should there be a law to stop journalists using the phrase, 'If we build it, they will come,' a misquote of, 'If you build it, he will come,' from *Field of Dreams*?

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