

EDITORIAL

The Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) met in Canberra in October to discuss 'enhancements' being made to the My School website by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and to discuss finalisation of the Kindergarten to Year 10 (K-10) national curriculum. The big question on My School was whether the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) would include a measure of school resources. Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Commonwealth Minister for Schools, Early Childhood and Youth Peter Garrett indicated that My School would provide 'a richer data set,' including 'additional financial information and additional information in relation to socioeconomic status.' Will 'additional financial information' include assets as well as recurrent income? Probably not. According to Garrett, the ICSEA will include 'recurrent expenditure,' but he made no reference to assets, saying only, 'wait until the (MCEECDYA) communiqué itself is formally released.' According to the communiqué, 'New features will include reporting of school financial information,' so we're none the wiser. What about the timeline for implementation of the national curriculum? According to the communiqué, 'Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to achieve substantial implementation of the K-10 Australian Curriculum in English, mathematics, science and history by the end of 2013, subject to there being a three-year implementation period to commence from when the K-10 Australian Curriculum (content, standards and support materials) becomes available.' **T**

FAST FACTS

Average annual expenditure per pre-primary student in countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, in United States dollars: \$5,447.
 Lowest OECD expenditure per pre-primary student: Mexico, \$1,979; highest*: US, \$9,394; Australia: \$6,507.
 Annual expenditure per primary student: \$6,741.
 Lowest expenditure per primary student: Mexico, \$2,111; highest: Luxembourg, \$13,985; Australia: \$6,498.
 Annual expenditure per secondary student: \$8,267.
 Lowest expenditure per secondary student: Chile, \$2,222; highest: Luxembourg, \$17,928; Australia: \$8,840.
 Annual expenditure per tertiary student: \$12,907.
 Lowest expenditure per tertiary student: Poland, \$5,576; highest: US, \$27,010; Australia: \$14,726.

Source: *Education at a Glance 2010: OECD indicators*. Paris: OECD

* Figure not available for Luxembourg.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Does Rob Costello support 'student centred' *versus* 'teacher centred,' or 'student centred' *and* 'teacher centred'?
2. What exactly *are* the three Rs?
3. Who coined the term?
4. So what are the three Xs?
5. Who coined this term?
6. If as an employer you have a policy regarding, say, the use of email or dress codes, does an employee's failure to comply warrant summary dismissal?
7. Which state recently established a Safe Schools Coalition of schools dedicated to creating safe educational environments that are free of homophobia and supportive of same-sex-attracted and gender-questioning students?
8. According to Associate Professor Carol Reid from the University of Western Sydney Centre for Educational Research, where does Australia face teacher shortages?
9. In terms of 'university system strength,' what is Australia's world ranking?
10. Can a school use a disclaimer to contract out of its responsibility to its students?

Answers: 1. 'student centred' *and* 'teacher centred'; 2. reading, writing and arithmetic; 3. Sir William Curtis; 4. explore, express and exchange; 5. Dr Idit Harel Caperton; 6. only if you have in place a zero tolerance policy that is consistently enforced; 7. Victoria; 8. and Sydney's south-west and west; 9. fourth, behind the United States, Great Britain and Germany; 10. no.

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