

Anglican
Schools
Australia



REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE MARCH 2012

PURPOSE

The Australian Anglican Schools Network (AASN) changed its name to Anglican Schools Australia (ASA) at its Annual General Meeting in August 2011. ASA is a collegial body comprising a diverse range of schools – urban, regional and rural, low through to high fee, single sex and co-educational, independent and systemic, day tuition and boarding. Overall, there is a strong commitment to the socially disadvantaged through bursaries and scholarships, indigenous education initiatives, community service and extension of the offering of each school's activities into local communities and parishes. Each Australian Anglican school has a School Council in place to ensure it is governed effectively at the local level, is fulfilling its Christian, academic and pastoral mission, is well managed financially and is meeting the needs of the school and wider community.

ASA is recognised by the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Australia under Part V of the *Strategic Issues, Task Forces and Other bodies Canon 19, 1998* as a Network. Our purpose is as follows:

The Network, giving honour to God, putting God first and working within God's will, seeks to:

- Provide a forum at National level for Anglican schools to facilitate discussion particularly on spiritual, moral and values related issues as they have a bearing on education.
- Be an effective network of General Synod of the Anglican Church.
- Achieve recognition of Anglican Schools as part of the mission of the Anglican Church.
- Engage with the Commonwealth Government, national Anglican agencies, other national education bodies and industry groups on matters which affect the Church's mission through Anglican schools.
- Be a forward-looking, dynamic organisation aiming to develop a strong unity of purpose among Anglican Schools.
- Report to General Synod on major matters discussed at the Network.

ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

There are 159 Anglican schools located in twenty Dioceses across Australia. Our schools educate almost 154,000 pupils. Anglican schools are the third largest schooling sector in Australia, after government and Catholic schools.

MANAGEMENT

The work of the Network is managed throughout the year by an elected Management Committee. The Committee meets six times a year, of which three meetings are face-to-face and three are by teleconference.

The current Management Committee comprises:

President: Mr Stephen Norris

President-Elect: Mrs Fiona Godfrey

Executive Officer and Immediate Past President: The Reverend Peter Laurence

State Representatives

Canberra & Goulburn: Mr Graham Willard

New South Wales: Mr Tony Cummings

Queensland: Dr Ness Goodwin

South Australia: Mrs Fiona Godfrey

Tasmania: Mr Stephen Norris

Victoria: Mr Stephen Higgs

Western Australia: Ms Anne Ford

Chaplain: To be advised.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Over the past decade, our focus as a Network has been to provide a national forum for member schools to meet and discuss issues of common interest. The primary means for this to occur is through our annual National Conference, which is held in August each year, in a different state on rotation. Approximately 200 governors, Principals, Chaplains and other senior staff attend each year. The Primate and a number of Archbishops and Bishops from across Australia have attended the conference. Our recent Conference themes have included:

- Faith in Action: *Living the Gospel in Anglican Schools*
- Beauty for Brokenness: *The Appeal of Anglicanism*
- Burning but not Consumed: *Faith through the Fire*
- Growing Up: *Innocence to Inner Sense*

The 2012 National Conference is being held in Sydney. The theme is Anglican Schools: *Renewing Minds, Changing Lives.*

ASA BOOK ON MINISTRY IN ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

ASA has commissioned Bishop Tom Frame to compile a book on '*Ministry in Anglican Schools: Essays and Reflections*'. There will be eighteen contributors, coming from most states and territories. The contributing authors will be both clergy and lay people who serve in Anglican schools as Chaplains or in other capacities. One of the aims of the book is that it will begin a nationwide conversation about some of the principles and practices informing Christian ministry in Anglican schools across Australia.

It is envisaged that the book will be published in August 2012 and will be launched at our Annual Conference in Sydney. Barton Books will be the publishers.

A copy of the book will be sent to every Diocesan Bishop as well as copies to every Anglican School.

CHAPLAINCY SHADOWING

ASA plays an important role in supporting and nurturing School Chaplains through our Chaplaincy Shadowing Program. The purpose of Chaplaincy Shadowing is to provide an opportunity for Chaplains to share with each other, become refreshed/re-energised and refocused, to get new ideas and to develop a spiritual mentor/buddy with whom to 'share the journey'. Two Chaplains, generally from different Dioceses, are paired for a period of one to three years, spending one week a year in each other's schools. Over fifty pairings have taken place since the program commenced, with most encouraging reports received from both Chaplains and schools.

ADVOCACY

ASA also plays an important role in advocacy, engaging with the Commonwealth Government, national Anglican agencies, other national education bodies and industry groups on matters which affect the Church's mission through Anglican schools. Two issues on which the Network has advocated in the past year are:

- The Australian Government's Review of Funding for Schooling (The Gonski Review)
- The Australian Government's National School 2011 Chaplaincy Program Review

ASA is now recognised by the Federal Government as a peak body with whom to consult.

PRAYER DIARY

ASA provides an online Prayer Diary for schools to enable the members and others to pray for each other systematically throughout the year.

ANGLICAN SCHOOLS CELEBRATIONS

ASA also provides online resources to support schools and Dioceses to hold an annual Anglican Schools Celebration – a focus on what it means to be an Anglican school. Resources support the holding of services at Diocesan or Provincial level in which schools, staff and students give thanks to God for this remarkable educational and missional enterprise.

NATIONAL OFFICE

The ASA office is located at the Anglican Schools Commission (ASC) in Perth, Western Australia.

The work of ASA is carried out by the Management Committee who are assisted by the staff at the ASC. It is supported by levies from each member school, as well as the ASC.

Mr Stephen Norris
PRESIDENT