

# **Non-Government Reform Support Annual Report**

---

**2018**

---

**Association of Independent Schools ACT**

---

## Non – Government Reform Support Fund

### AISACT – Annual Report 2018

#### Executive Summary

The Association’s Strategic Intent has guided the decisions and work of the Association and articulates the key directions needed to achieve the Association’s goals. The Strategic Intent is supported by a number of operational plans

This report outlines the key activities of the Association to meet Member School needs and to positively advance the actions designed to achieve the objectives of the School Education Reform Agenda

In 2018, AISACT built and further developed the capacity of Independent schools in the ACT to meet the Australian Government’s school education reform priorities for non-government schools.

To this end, AISACT provided a strong supportive range of programs beginning in January 2018. Building on previous work on the **quality assurance, moderation and support for the continued improvement of Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability**, the organisation provided online training modules on the Disability Standards for both teaching staff and assistants. There was a strong focus on Moderation, working cross sectorally, and with new focussed sessions for all member schools through the established Students with Disability Network. There was a focus on leadership development with targeted programs for Principals and Executive staff of Member Schools. These programs were in addition to the provision of expert advice from a newly appointed staff member providing both hotline support and advice through on-site support at individual schools. Professional development focussed on the collection of evidence and data, and developing programs to ensure that the support and planning for individual students is at the centre of everything schools do, will achieve the best possible learning outcomes for students.

During 2018, the transition year for the **implementation of online delivery of the National Assessment program**, AISACT worked to ensure that all 18 Member Schools had access to advice and assistance with regard to their readiness for the implementation of the online delivery of the National Assessment program. Importantly, AISACT provided financial assistance to access for external support for platform solutions to those schools who are not in a position to internally address implementation issues. AISACT ensured relevant communication and resources were provided on its website, and NAPLAN Online was a focus and a set agenda item for all Board meetings throughout 2018.

The priority **addressing the improvement of governance and financial management practices in non-government schools** saw the provision of a program provided by the Australian Institute of Company Directors available to all member schools Board Directors. The focus through the provision of these short courses and sessions addressed the practice, monitoring, planning and sustaining of good governance. These courses or sessions built on best practice and was provided by a range of experts throughout the year. AISACT also incorporated focussed agenda items at the Business Managers Forums.

AISACT continued to be responsive to Member Schools' needs, through the provision of specialist professional learning programs as evidenced by the other identified programs, addressing National Curriculum, Emerging Leaders, Literacy and Numeracy Coaching and provision for Gifted and Talented students to name a few. These programs also incorporate elements of the reform priorities.

### **Relationship with the ACT government**

As the representative body for the Independent School sector, the Association represents the sector's view to Territory and Federal governments on matters of significance and importance in education and its Member Schools. The Association continues to work closely with the ACT Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Ms Yvette Berry MLA, ministerial advisors, and senior officials from the ACT Education Directorate. The Association also worked closely with The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Catholic Education to continue to advance the specific issues relating to Non-Government Schools in the ACT.

The Government, Catholic and Independent schooling sectors worked collaboratively through quarterly cross-sectoral executive meetings to share progress and challenges and by maintaining cross-sectoral reform-specific governance mechanisms such as NAPLAN Online Steering Group, Australian Curriculum Assessment working group, the Board of Senior Secondary studies and the Teacher Quality Institute and input into a range of policy areas impacting on students and staff in the ACT.

## Project Reports

Project title	Achieved outcomes	Achievement against indicators of success
<p><b>Implementation of online delivery of National Assessment program</b></p>	<p>AISACT has a seat on the ACT NAPLAN Online Governance Board ensuring representation of the issues of, and advocacy for, Independent schools.</p> <p>AISACT worked closely with schools, providing advice and assistance with regard to each school's readiness for, and implementation of, the online delivery of the National Assessment program.</p> <p>13 schools were provided financial support to engage expert advice to ensure platform and infrastructure requirements were appropriate for their school context to support participation in NAPLAN Online.</p> <p>NAPLAN Online was a regular agenda item at all ASIACT General meetings (4) throughout 2018.</p>	<p>Every Independent School in the ACT is well positioned to fully engage with NAPLAN online within the national timeframe, and has progressed through agreed gateways to ensure successful participation.</p> <p>50% of Member Schools participated in NAPLAN Online in 2018.</p>



Project title	Achieved outcomes	Achievement against indicators of success
<p><b>Quality assurance, moderation and support for continued improvement of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)</b></p>	<p><b>Moderation</b></p> <p>AISACT planned and developed an NCCD Cross sectoral Moderation Day (all schools in the ACT were invited)</p> <p>AISACT worked with its Students with Disability Network and delivered four (4) focussed NCCD moderation days specifically working through the requirements of each category of adjustment</p> <p><b>Communication/engagement</b></p> <p>AISACT planned and ensured the Students with Disability Network met each term, with focussed discussions for both Learning Support Teachers and Assistants, as well as a focus on developing ILPs, Behavioural Plans, and Mental Health Plans.</p> <p>AISACT provided an expert Hotline Support</p> <p><b>Professional Learning - Disability Standards Online training Modules</b></p> <p>( University of Canberra)</p> <p>AISACT continued to provide access to staff from Member schools to complete DS online training modules</p> <p><b>Leadership Development</b></p> <p>AISACT developed and presented targeted programs for Principals and executive of schools.</p>	<p>All Sectors represented</p> <p>80% of Independent schools represented at the cross sectoral Moderation Day.</p> <p>80% of the responses from participants reflect a clear understanding of quality evidence to assist accurate and consistent teacher judgement for NCCD.</p> <p>21 Participants representing 70% of AISACT member schools attended the workshops.</p> <p>ACT TQI Independent evaluation “I gained useful knowledge and understanding through participating in this program”</p> <p>Strongly Agree - 70%</p> <p>Agree – 30%</p> <p>244 participants from ACTAIS member schools completed the course modules in 2018.</p> <p>80% of workshop participants reported enhanced understanding through participating in the workshops.</p>

Project title	Achieved outcomes	Achievement against indicators of success
<p><b>Improving governance and financial management practices in non-government schools</b></p>	<p>AISACT provided a suite of governance focussed workshops that were delivered by the Australian Institute of Company Directors for school Board members.</p> <p>The provision of supportive triaged Legal Services for member schools has been negotiated with law firm Sneddon Hall and Gallop which also includes the provision of regular newsletter items and planned topic specific seminar presentations.</p> <p>Business Managers Forum An independent ACT firm of chartered accounts presented on a range of topics around Not for Profit FBT concessions</p> <p>AISACT provided a Leadership Development Breakfast Series as a cross sectoral event which focussed on leading change. The presenters were: Dr Jan Owen AM - Professor Patrick McGorry AO Leading Change – Mental Health Jodie Griffiths Cook, ACT Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner.</p>	<p>Participants all reported an Improved knowledge and application of a range of topics: Defining governance roles duties and responsibilities, legal environment, Board processes, financial reporting, monitoring financial performance, strategy planning, risk management, compliance and policy framework, stakeholder engagement and board effectiveness.</p> <p>70% of independent schools accessed the professional learning on improvements to governance practices.</p> <p>80% of workshop participants reported enhanced understanding of financial management practices.</p> <p>All of workshop participants reported enhanced understanding of governance practices.</p> <p>Over 100 participants from all sectors of education and the broader education community attended each Leadership Breakfast with 95% of our member schools attending.</p>





## Financial Statement

<b>NAPLAN Online</b>	<b><u>FTE</u></b>	<b><u>Reform Support Fund funding</u></b>	<b><u>Total funding</u></b>
Staff		77500	77500
Access to external NCCD advice		32500	32500

<b>NCCD</b>	<b><u>FTE</u></b>	<b><u>Reform Support Fund funding</u></b>	<b><u>Total funding</u></b>
Staff		87750	87750
Access to professional support, counselling and diagnostic advice		7395	7395
NCCD Moderation professional learning		9114	9114
Leadership Development		16100	16100

<b>Improving Governance</b>	<b><u>FTE</u></b>	<b><u>Reform Support Fund funding</u></b>	<b><u>Total funding</u></b>
Staff		73500	73500
Legal Support		10000	10000
Employsure – support to schools		4997	4997
Board Governance training – AICD		24338	24338
Leadership Breakfast series		13081	13081
Business Managers Forum		720	720

<b>Other</b>	<b><u>FTE</u></b>	<b><u>Reform Support Fund funding</u></b>	<b><u>Total funding</u></b>
Staff		46000	46000
Australian Curriculum Professional Learning Series		11408	11408
AISACT Coaching Academy		16422	16422
Curriculum Differentiation – Gifted & Talented		4410	4410
Emerging Leaders Program		30463	30463

<b><u>Overall expenses</u></b>	<b><u>Total FTE</u></b>	<b><u>Total funding from the reform support fund</u></b>	<b><u>Total funding</u></b>
<b><u>Non-government reform support fund</u></b>		<b><u>\$461000</u></b>	<b><u>\$465698</u></b>

\*The AISACT office is staffed with five people which then equates to 3.9 FTE. All staff contribute in some way to the range of programs and services provided to member schools through the above programs. It is therefore difficult to allocate an accurate proportion of their time to each activity. The Reform Funding allocated to staff contributes approximately 53% of the total cost of the staff.