



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Term Transmit

## for Teachers

Issue 1, 2007

## Faculty of Education >

Welcome to 2007. Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and students and feel free to contact us if you wish to discuss anything further. Happy reading!

### Can you host a student teacher?

Schools vary in the number of pre-service teachers they take each year. The VCDE and VIT have recently concluded a study of practicum placement patterns in schools, in response to the looming crisis in finding sufficient placements to complete students in Education courses.

Schools that regularly take groups of student teachers report that they enjoy the fresh enthusiasm and the shared learning that occurs between staff and pre-service teachers. Student teachers are a source of new ideas for schools and in many cases they contribute more broadly to the school environment. Schools also value being able to be a part of the ongoing renewal of the profession and contributing to the growth of the next generation of teachers.

While the number of student placements in schools varies enormously an average of 14% of teachers in schools supervise a student teacher each year. If one more teacher per school were able to take a pre-service teacher the crisis faced by the universities in placing students would be greatly alleviated. The VCDE and the VIT are now proposing a further study to explore which models of placements

promote optimal conditions for school-university partnerships and support learning that is clearly focused on the development of professional standards for teaching.

Teachers who are willing to provide supervision to a pre-service teacher should contact the Student Teacher Coordinator in their school. Details can then be forwarded to the Faculty's Professional Practice Office at 03 8344 8772.

### Orientation 2007

The last two weeks have seen the Faculty abuzz with orientation activities as nearly 900 aspiring teachers join us, ready to start a pre-service teaching program.

In addition, the Faculty has welcomed close to 150 current teachers and educational professionals who will be commencing one of the suite of postgraduate courses in the Faculty.

The excitement of O-week is infectious, and the Faculty extends a warm welcome to all its new students.

For those of you considering further study, we remind you that most postgraduate courses have mid-year intakes. Please contact the Faculty of Education Student Centre on

### Diary Update: Faculty of Education - Careers Expo 2007

We know how quickly your diaries fill up, so we thought we would get in early! Our annual Education Careers Expo will now be held on Tuesday 2 October.

It is set to be another great event and we welcome your attendance to represent your school or region. It is a great opportunity to recruit graduates from across the education sector or to promote teaching in your region. We have early bird rates available, as well as the opportunity to participate in information sessions for a select few. Don't miss out!

For further information contact Penelope Burke on 03 8344 8480 or [pburke@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:pburke@unimelb.edu.au) or visit our website at [www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/about/commpart/sponsorship/index.html](http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/about/commpart/sponsorship/index.html)

## > Education in the media

**A collaboration between the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education, the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Education Institute and the Centre for Adolescent Health will track young people whose schooling is disrupted by illness or accident. The project will study adolescents over a two-year period to chart their experiences, identity-making and social connectedness.**

The RCH Education Institute revealed that they would sponsor a PhD scholarship for \$75,000 over three years to complement the work of the University's project team. The Scholarship will support a doctoral student in developing a project related to the research study.

Professor Lyn Yates, the Associate Dean of Research and Research training in the Faculty of Education is delighted to have the RCH Education Institute's support and foresees the project having an impact on children, parents and professionals working with youths.

"A long-term illness or a traumatic experience can severely impact a child's experience of schooling, not just academically, but in ways related to social connection and disconnection. We want to draw out the stories behind young people's illnesses, not purely focus on their health. The work of the PhD will underpin this information gathering."

The project is unique in that it will not only capture the experience of the young person, but also study the perspectives of parents, education and health professionals.

"We plan to use a range of methods to capture perspectives, including visual, narrative and video materials, to discover how education and health professionals and parents interact with young people in this situation", says Professor Yates. "We want to understand the perspectives these groups bring to bear, and how these facilitate or work against young people's ability to maintain connection with schools and community outside the hospital."

## > Dean's Lecture Series 2007

2007

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Dean's Lecture	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Dean's Lecture	29	30	31		

Planning for the 2007 series is well underway, and with high profile educational professionals such as Professor Michael Apple, John Bascom Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor Richard James, Chair of Higher Education and Director of the Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne and Professor Glenda MacNaughton, Director, Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood at the University of Melbourne, it is sure to be a series to see.

For more information on the 2007 series you can email: [education-events@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:education-events@unimelb.edu.au)

## > Rudd speaks to overflow uni audience

Hosted by the University's Faculty of Education, Mr Rudd spoke on Australia's Future Growth Challenge to a capacity public lecture theatre audience – with an overflow to a second theatre with direct video coverage – dealing at length with the critical link between long-term prosperity, productivity growth and human capital investment.

Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute (MERI), Professor Barry McGaw, who chaired the lecture, says it was very encouraging to see a national political leader giving such priority to education and gratifying to have him make this presentation at a University of Melbourne forum. MERI acts to bring together leading researchers in Australian education and training, policy and management to conduct research to further improve education systems and student - outcomes and provide advice and consultation to government, local community and industry partners.

### FURTHER INFORMATION Faculty of Education Student Centre

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