

National School Reform Agreement

South Australia Bilateral Agreement: 2023 Progress Report

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Executive Summary

In 2023, South Australia's schooling sectors have continued to work to progress all agreed actions under the bilateral agreement of the National School Reform Agreement. Highlights against the three reform directions of the agreement are noted below.

Reform Direction A: Supporting students, student learning and student achievement

- Continued delivery of the State Government's capital works program providing new and improved learning areas. 20 upgrades were completed in 2023 and construction commenced on 2 new technical colleges at Findon and Tonsley.
- For the Catholic sector, priorities were the continued embedding of the Living Learning Leading (LLL) framework and associated survey tool in schools. The implementation of the Principal's E-Portfolio saw 100% take-up from Diocesan school leaders. The Literacy and Numeracy Strategy was finalised and launched in May, combined with a program of professional learning and continued development of testing options in early years education in the areas of reading and maths.
- In the first year of a longer-term strategy to support implementation of version 9 of the Australian Curriculum, Association of Independent Schools of South Australia (AISSA) built independent school leaders' capacities to lead curriculum familiarisation in their schools through the provision of a professional learning suite across all eight Australian Curriculum Learning Areas, delivered through face to face and online learning.

Reform Direction B: Support teaching, school leadership and school improvement

- In 2023, over 3,000 leaders and teachers undertook professional learning programs at Orbis, the department's professional learning institute for leaders and teachers. Orbis launched a new leadership offering, Leading Future Learning, co-designed with South Australian education leaders and the University of Melbourne, and piloted programs to support site-leaders' wellbeing and coaching skills.
- Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) continued the development of strategies including EALD, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and Gifted Education. These have involved significant partnership with tertiary providers. CESA created the Entrepreneurial Learning Progression Continuum aligned to each of the CESA Key

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Capabilities and designed a professional development program to build teacher capacity to lead entrepreneurial learning in schools.

- Building the capacity of current and emerging leaders, including principals new to Independent schools, was a key focus for the AISSA Leadership Institute. Critical supports included learning opportunities, networking and professional companionship. Recognising the importance of teachers across all career stages, AISSA facilitated the induction of teachers new to the profession by bringing together early career and mentor teachers to provide opportunities for collaborative learning and practice-focused mentoring.

Reform Direction C: Enhancing the national evidence base

- All sectors continued to pursue reforms to improved NCCD collections.

Progress Against Each Reform Direction

Reform Direction A - Support students, student learning and achievement

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
School Improvement Model All schools are provided a suite of tailored guides to support improvements in literacy and numeracy	Government	2019	Action status: Completed in 2019 N/A
STEM Deliver 500 'expert' teachers in primary schools across South Australia, including regional and rural locations	Government	2020	Action status: Completed in 2019 N/A
Literacy and numeracy - Deliver phonics-based literacy and numeracy screening for all Year 1 students - Literacy Guarantee Unit operational	Government	2019	Action status: Completed in 2019 N/A

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Schools Capital Program A program to revitalise ageing infrastructure and increase capacity	Government	Year TBC (Life of Agreement)	Action status: Ongoing The state government continued its significant investment in education capital works, including: - completing 20 capital works projects, providing enhanced learning environments for staff and students - commencing construction on new technical colleges at Findon and Tonsley that will provide industry training programs for students in years 10, 11 and 12. A further 3 new colleges are in the planning and design phase. - progressing construction on a major expansion of Adelaide Botanic High School to cater for an additional 700 students, and the final stage of the new Morialta Secondary College.
South Australian Government schools' year 7 transition into high school Year 7 transition into high school completed	Government	Life of Agreement	Action status: Completed in 2021 N/A

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Improved Student Learning and Wellbeing Implement the Living Learning Leading Framework	Catholic	Life of Agreement	Action status: Ongoing The LLL framework and Leadership standards have now been implemented in all diocesan schools and form a key component of the suite of documents that underpin the strategic and operational intent of CESA.
STEM - Build System Capacity - Conduct an annual STEM Forum - Improve access and equity to quality STEM education for schools and students (particularly girls and ATSI) in low socio-economic areas - Provide science consultancy to schools - Build Teacher and Leader Capacity - STEM professional learning for primary and middle years teachers	Catholic	Life of Agreement	Action status: Ongoing Build System Capacity - A 2023 STEM MAD showcase incorporating a Design Thinking masterclass and curriculum design workshops was held to promote and celebrate STEM learning in Years 3 to 12. - Participation At the STEM MAD Showcase in Adelaide, attended by 112 participants from 18 schools across primary, secondary and regional sites.

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
○ Provide high quality STEM professional learning based on real world inquiry and integrated interdisciplinary approach • Build Dynamic and Sustainable Partnerships ○ Develop partnerships and networks with industry, universities and other education providers			Build Teacher and Leader Capacity • Professional Learning on Designing Learning for STEM. Teacher responses indicate PD significantly increased their confidence and understanding of how to design, plan and assess STEM MAD curriculum using the Australian Curriculum Build Dynamic and Sustainable Partnerships • Partnerships established in 2022 continued in 2023 via the following projects and partnerships: Lumination – Bite Size STEM workshops, STEM and Space
Literacy and Numeracy • Implement Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) Literacy Learning Strategy ○ Deliver phonics screening to Catholic Schools for all Year 1 students	Catholic	2021 Complete, with implementation of the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and	Action status: Complete, with Implementation Ongoing • In 2023, all CESA Diocesan schools participated in a mandated Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
- Implement CESA Numeracy Learning Strategy - Design and deliver numeracy screening to Catholic Schools for students in the Early Years		Year 1 Number Check, ongoing	- In 2023, CESA expanded its system licence of ACER Progressive Assessment Tests available to schools to include AGAT. - In 2023, CESA trialled the Year 1 Number Check through Education Services Australia, providing early indicators of numeracy proficiency. - In 2023, CESA implemented opportunities for schools to undertake Foundations of Early Literacy Assessment; LEAP Oral Language; Leap Writing. - CESA launched the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy in 2023 along with professional development aligned to key areas of the strategy. - CESA developed a Phonics Scope and Sequence and several supporting online professional learning resources. - In 2024, CESA will expand the Year 1 Number Check trial.

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Catholic Schools transition of Year 7 into secondary school Complete transition of Year 7 into secondary settings	Catholic	2022	Action status: Complete
Improving Student Learning and Achievement - Evidence informed improvement practices that meet the cultural and contextual needs of students in Independent schools are provided through the use of the High Impact School Improvement Tool - Schools will explore the Australian Curriculum Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions as a means of identifying student learning and achievement to enable teachers to respond appropriately to student learning needs	Independent	Life of Agreement	Action status: Ongoing - AISSA embarked on the first year of a longer-term strategy that will see SA Independent schools become familiar with, and successfully implement, version 9 of the Australian Curriculum. The model implemented developed the capacity of school-based learning leaders to lead familiarisation processes within their schools. - In partnership with a local Elder, staff from Independent schools were guided in strengthening supports for First Nations students in their senior secondary years of schooling. Educators acquired

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			tools for creating culturally inclusive environments, successful transitions, integrating Cultural Knowledge and implementing culturally appropriate strategies.
STEM • Explore and implement opportunities for STEM Education through the Association of Independent Schools South Australia (AISSA) STEM Task Force ○ Audit tool ○ Local and international research bank ○ Industry and tertiary partnerships ○ School-based STEM strategies	Independent	2019/20	Action status: Completed in 2020

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Literacy and numeracy • Provide access for all Independent schools to phonics based literacy screening • Implementation of the ReSolve mathematical inquiry project in participating schools	Independent	2019/20	Action status: Completed in 2019
Middle years Schooling Improvements • The Responding to Early Adolescent Learners Committee will investigate and scale best practice in Middle Schooling, including schools required to transition Year 7 students to secondary contexts	Independent	2019/22	Action status: Complete, with Implementation Ongoing • School leaders of Middle Years students considered the ways in which the developmental and learning needs of early adolescents were best met. Key authorities provided expert input about curriculum, dispositions for success, and transition considerations for middle years students. The group also explored excellence in inclusive practice, with a focus on applications and considerations for middle years contexts.

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
- Indigenous Secondary Student Mentoring - Providing Indigenous secondary students with mentoring support, building cultural connections and educational aspiration	Independent	2018/19	Action status: Completed in 2019

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Reform Direction B – Support teaching, school leadership and school improvement

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Aboriginal Education Strategy • Release Aboriginal Education Strategy supported by governance arrangements that involve and support transparency to Aboriginal People • Launch of rolling public implementation plan	Government	2019	Action status: Completed in 2019
Supporting Teacher Development • Teacher and Leadership Academy is established and delivering high quality professional learning	Government	Life of Agreement	Action status: Ongoing • Orbis, the department's professional learning institute for leaders and teachers, was launched in April 2019 and provides a comprehensive suite of capability programs throughout an educator's career trajectory. • In 2023, 3,068 leaders and teachers undertook professional learning programs at Orbis. • Measures to increase access for regional teachers and leaders included:

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			• Funding for travel expenses provided to 292 teachers and leaders from 142 regional sites • Online access to Early Career Teacher Development and Middle Leadership programs • Select cohorts of some programs delivered locally in regions such as Mount Gambier, the mid-North and Port Lincoln. • Orbis launched a new leadership offering, Leading Future Learning, co-designed with South Australian education leaders and the University of Melbourne, and piloted programs to support site-leaders' wellbeing and coaching skills.
Entrepreneurial Education • Entrepreneurial specialist programs implemented in 4 high schools (2 in regional/rural areas and 2 in metropolitan areas) • New business and entrepreneurialism focussed SACE subjects developed	Government	2019	Action status: Completed in 2019

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Establish a new technical college in the western suburbs of Adelaide to support young South Australians to develop high level trade, STEM and entrepreneurial skills so they are well equipped for careers in defence, shipbuilding and other maritime industries			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy Release reviewed CESA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy	Catholic	2020	Action status: Complete with Implementation Ongoing - Release of the CESA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy was significantly delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. - During 2023 the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools approved all recommendations of the CESA Aboriginal Education Strategy. - In Late 2023, an 'Action Plan Working Group' formed, with representatives including principals from Catholic schools (regional and metropolitan), Aboriginal education focus teachers, Aboriginal school staff, as well as an external Aboriginal academic as a 'critical friend' from Flinders

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			University. A draft 'Action Plan' will be ready for review in mid-2024. • Additional Strategy recommendations were scoped, planned, developed, and implemented for trial in 2024: 1. A cohesive Aboriginal Focus Teachers Network program, 2. Regular Network meetings 3. Doubling the amount of Aboriginal student cultural opportunities 4. The development of a Cultural Learning Plan (part of the suite of new plans via the development of an updated Personalised Plan for Learning (PPL)
Continuous Improvement Framework for Catholic Schools • Review the 2014 Continuous Improvement Framework for Catholic Schools to reflect the Living Learning Leading Framework	Catholic	2020	Action status: Completed in 2020

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Extend external evaluation process to all catholic schools			
Entrepreneurial Education - Initiate and support an Entrepreneurial & Innovation Network of schools to research and enact pedagogies which engage students in developing entrepreneurial skills and disposition - Collaborate with schools to develop and implement a CESA Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative	Catholic Catholic	2021 2020	Action status: Ongoing - In 2023 CESA Limitless Possibilities Digital Toolkit went live and is accessible for all 103 CESA schools. - The Social Entrepreneurial Learning Progression Continuum was developed - Professional learning program was designed to build teachers' capacity to lead entrepreneurial learning in their schools. The program was offered to CESA schools across early years, primary years, and secondary years. - Further Masterclasses designed and delivered - Limitless Possibilities National recognition- won the Teacher Magazine inaugural award for Curriculum Design and Implementation Teacher Awards 2023:

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			Curriculum Design and Implementation (teacher magazine.com)
Leadership Institute - The AISSA Leadership Institute supports governing councils, leaders and leadership teams to govern and lead in a rapidly changing education landscape - Governing Council Conference and workshops - Leadership Legal series - School Impact Hubs - Leadership seminars, conferences and in-school development programs	Independent	Life of Agreement	Action status: Ongoing - The work of the Leadership Institute continued to build the capacity of current and emerging leaders, including principals new to Independent schools and deputy principals, through a comprehensive program, networking, professional companioning and in-school support. School teams explored innovative models of learning that emphasised learner agency and considered ways to lead change in an evolving education landscape. - A Governance Conference and suite of professional learning focused on increasing awareness of contemporary and effective governance and financial management obligations. This program utilised both face-to-face and online occasions to maximise accessibility and participation for board

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			members across metropolitan and regional locations.
Early Career Teacher Development Inducting early career teachers to the profession through the provision of professional learning and mentoring	Independent	Life of Agreement	Action status: Ongoing Teachers new to the profession, together with their school-based mentor teachers, were provided with opportunities for collaborative learning and practice-focused mentoring. Specific foci included developing positive student relationships and learning environments, building teacher confidence to growing cultural capacity and exploring enacting curriculum frameworks including the new Early Years Learning Framework, the Australian Curriculum v9.0 and teaching and learning in the senior years.

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
ChallenGE Project The ChallenGE project uses a Design Thinking methodology to develop context specific responses to the needs of highly able learners. Schools will prototype and scale locally developed initiatives.	Independent	2019	Action status: Completed in 2019
Centre for Innovation - The AISSA Centre for Innovation will support schools to implement improvement initiatives through programs including: - School Impact Hubs - Learning Design and Moderation	Independent	2019/21	Action status: Completed in 2021

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Reform Direction C – Enhancing the national evidence base

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
School Improvement Model Continue to implement agreed improvements to the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability	All Sectors	Life of Agreement	Action status: Ongoing - The department continues to provide schools support and advice on the NCCD and the Disability Standards for Education. - Departmental officers participated in the Student with Disability Loading Review Reference Group that acted upon the recommendations from the National Schools Resourcing Board review of the national disability loadings. - Independent schools received advice to manage and implement the practical and legislative aspects of the NCCD and Disability Standards for Education (DSE).
School Improvement Model	Catholic	2020	Action status: Completed in 2020

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – SA – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
School improvement Dashboard developed and provided to schools			
School Improvement Model Each independent school is supported to meet both national obligations and strategic school improvement initiatives, through the provision of expert support and advice	Independent	Life of Agreement	Action status: Ongoing - AISSA Educational Consultants worked alongside school leaders to provide advice, support and resources that helped schools fulfil their national obligations and scaffold improvement initiatives. - Schools developed knowledge and understanding of the NCCD, and related processes and procedures. This included building their capacity to understand and implement reasonable adjustments and develop personalised learning and assessment for students with diverse needs.