



SCHOOLS REGISTRATION BOARD

NEWSLETTER – February 2013

Welcome to the 2013 school year, a year which heralds a change in Tasmanian education through the introduction of a four-term school year.

Recently the membership of the Schools Registration Board (SRB) was confirmed by the Minister for Education and Skills under the *Education Act 1994 (1-3)*, for the following 18 months. The Board, as at 1 January 2013, consists of the following members:

Ms Jenny Cranston	Chair
Ms Judy Travers	Department of Education
Mr Tony Crehan	Organisations representing registered schools
Mr Jon Hosford	Organisations representing registered schools
Ms Angela Briant	Organisations representing teachers of registered schools
Ms Gillian Unicomb	Organisations representing teachers of registered schools
Ms Christine Edwards	Catholic Education
Mr Ian Dalton	Organisations representing parents of children at registered schools
Ms Sally Giacon	Registrar

During 2012 Dr Helen Healy, the representative of Catholic education, moved to Victoria to take up a principalship, and at the end of the year, Ms Lynne Hanlon finished in her role as the representative of the Department of Education. The Board wishes to acknowledge the

contributions of both these retiring members of the SRB and extends thanks to Helen and Lynne for their support of non-government schools in this State.

The SRB will commence its meeting schedule for the year with a meeting on the 6 February inclusive of a presentation on the new *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* and the Work Health and Safety Regulations, which came into effect in Tasmania on 1 January 2013. These regulations mirror the national Model Work Health and Safety Regulations and this legislative change has implications for meeting the Standards required for school re-registration.

The SRB, like schools, has a busy year ahead with 18 registration reviews planned for the year. The increased number of reviews relates to information shared in the previous newsletter, notably:

- Length of Registration –

While the *Education Act 1994* allows for a maximum period of registration as a school of six years, the Board is unlikely to renew the majority of registrations for this period due to the significant changes that are occurring in the educational environment currently, particularly with the progressive introduction of the Australian Curriculum

- Compliance with the Standards –

Schools must be fully compliant with all aspects of the Standards to achieve ongoing registration. This means that schools under-going reviews need to ensure that all their policies and practices, as outlined in the SRB Handbook, are fully compliant.

- Dates for Reviews –

The *Education Act* allows for a registration review at any time prior to expiry of registration. As conditional registration is not an option, the Board has determined to bring reviews forward into the year before a school's current registration expires. This practice of reviewing earlier, generally to be in the second half of the year before, is to give schools plenty of time, should it be necessary, to meet compliance requirements before the expiry of registration.

The summer that Tasmania has experienced this year offers a seasonal reminder of the ongoing obligations on building occupiers in respect to

maintaining evacuation plans and undertaking a practice evacuation annually, as outlined in the *General Fire Regulations 2010*.

Any changes to SRB practice are intended to be supportive of schools and are not meant to cause inconvenience or to be seen as punitive. Board members are always appreciative of principals and school staff for their efforts in preparing quality, professional documentation to assist the review process and for their willing and helpful participation during reviews.

The SRB Handbook, available at www.srb.tas.gov.au, provides explicit details of each of the Standards pertaining to non-government school's re-registration. Additionally the SRB Registrar is available at any time to offer advice if required, by phone (6233 7795) or through email (registrar@srb.tas.gov.au).

Best wishes for the coming year.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Cranston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Cranston
Chair, Schools Registration Board