

# NEWSLETTER



Australian Association of Special Education Inc. | WA Chapter

## In this issue:

- Positive Partnerships
- Sam's Best Shot Book Review
- Solutions Focused Special Education
- Abilities Expo
- 2019 AASE National Conference Program Announced & Key Note Speakers
- AASE Bursary Deadline Extended
- AASE Research Award

## President's Comment

Dear AASE Members,

I hope term 2 is progressing well. In this newsletter we have reviews of two different but interesting publications about a number of upcoming events. The events to watch out for include the Abilities Expo and the AASE National Conference in Tasmania. The program for the national conference has been announced and the link to this is provided with information on key note speakers. There's also the opportunity to apply for a bursary to attend the conference funded by AASE WA.

AASE are offering a research award of up to \$15,000 to explore evidence-based practice in supporting students with special educational needs. If there are practices at your school that you would like to investigate further, you might like to contact one of the WA universities about working with you to research this practice.

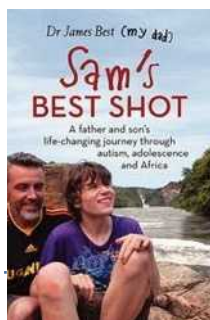
As you might also be aware, on 5 April 2019, the government announced the establishment of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. This followed a public consultation on the draft Terms of Reference for a Royal Commission into Disability from 13 to 28 March 2019. Members of the AASE National committee contributed to this consultation process as we believe that schools should be an 'essential' component of the commission's work and that our concerns stem from a need to better understand and prevent practices which might lead to violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation. The Commissioners are required to provide an interim report no later than 30 October 2020, and a final report by no later than 29 April 2022.

I hope the rest of your term goes well.

Dr Susan Main

President WA Chapter, AASE

## Sam's Best Shot Review



Margaret Balfe

Whether you view this Father and son's journey as crazy or epiphany creating either way this book is a darn good read. Not a textbook but a story of how one man took a risk to show how people with autism can combat the struggles they have communicating in diverse social environments. Yes, what they did is based on theory and research. Connecting the success of early intervention with the knowledge that the teenage brain is developing, growing and malleable like that of a young child this couple saw an opportunity to expand on the 'Relationship Development Intervention' they were already doing with their son. Taking a journey across Africa placing their son in many situations of uncertainty and unpredictability for a prolonged period of time with the hope that the combination of this exposure coupled with actively working on the brain's neuroplasticity by undertaking activities which required use of multiple parts of the brain would expand and develop communication and social skills. Were they successful? *Maybe read the book!*

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Australian Association of Special Education WA Chapter

## Positive Partnerships | Supporting students with ASD

*Positive Partnerships* is a national project, funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Helping Children with Autism package.

*Positive Partnerships* is delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect), with a goal to improve the educational outcomes of school-aged students on the autism spectrum.

Teachers and Education Assistants can access a brilliant and wide range of resources, including webinars, on line learning and fact sheets to assist them in working with students on the autism spectrum and parents/carers.

*Positive Partnerships* also has a number of excellent resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. For more info visit:

<http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/>

*View this short 4 minute video to hear the impact a Positive Partnerships workshop has had on a parent, teacher, principal and students.*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm7hhZ7WBEk#action=share>

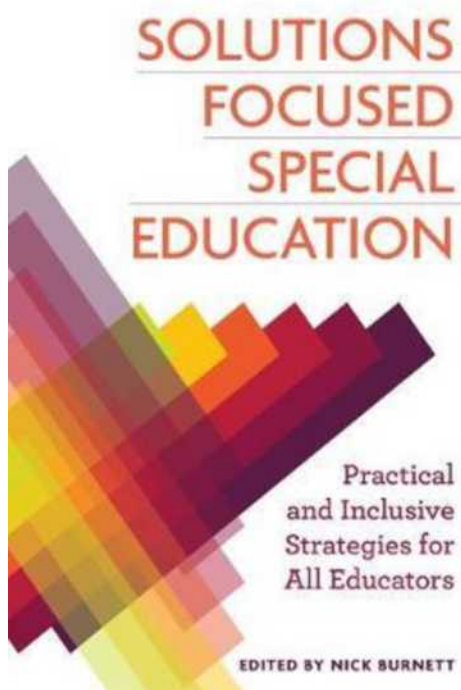


positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

## Book Review | "Solutions Focused Special Education"

Joanne Thompson



I recently pre-ordered this book and have eagerly awaited its arrival! I am still reading and digesting the content, but thought I would share a few elements from the book and thoughts in response to it. I have had some interest in Solution Focused Therapy (SFT) due to my background in psychology and was very excited when doing a web search related to this topic, that I found this book! I felt there was a great possibility of applying some of the principles of SFT to special education and my work with teachers in educating students with disability, as there seemed to be a natural affinity between the two approaches. Of particular relevance for me as a practitioner is in working with teachers and education assistants across all contexts, to focus on a student's strengths and abilities and see challenges as opportunities to focus on creative solutions to move forward rather than the natural tendency to focus on the problem and the past! I

recently heard feedback from one of my interstate colleagues regarding some recent voices out in the community that Special Education is based too much on a deficit model and needs to move aside for inclusive education. This book I think addresses some of these undercurrents of concern and criticism within the community to demonstrate how special education has always essentially, I believe, been embedded in a solution focused way i.e. the focus being on what's wanted, what's working, progress, influence rather than control, collaboration, resources and strengths, action and the future rather than the past (Jackson and McKergow, 2007) Well the special education I have been practicing over the past 30 years certainly has ticked all those boxes! Nick Burnett in his introductory chapter certainly agrees with this, although he does acknowledge that special education at times has not explicitly promoted these principles. The book explores topics such as Solutions-Focused Special Education (SFSE) Leadership, SFSE Human Resources, SFSE Behaviour Support SPSE Partnerships with Family and Community and SFSE System Philosophy and Practices for a System that works. From what I have read so far, Nick Burnett and other authors are not afraid to ask some tough questions of Special Education as it stands in the educational world today.

**Solutions Focused Special Education:  
Practical and Inclusive Strategies for All Educators**

Nick Burnett (Ed)

Jessica Kingsley Publishers 2019

A gentle reminder to pay for your membership. Opportunities for members include a bursary to attend the 2019 AASE National conference, the AASE WA award for exemplary practice, a quarterly newsletter, and members only prices for AASE PD's.

# REMINDER



If you haven't already done so, *please pay your 2018/19 membership!*

## Abilities EXPO | Pathways to the Future

The annual Abilities Expo is for people with disability, their families and carers to learn more about services and supports available in WA. Visitors will be able to hear guest speakers, enjoy performances, meet with many of WA's disability service providers and take part in interactive workshops that focus on skill-building for employment.

The expo will be open from 9.15am – 7.30pm.

## Save the Date



**The Premier Showcase Event - Celebrating 16 Years**

The Abilities Expo is for people of all ages with disability, their families and carers who want to know more about the services they can access and the organisations that provide those services.

**Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup> 2019**

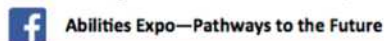
**Crown Perth - Grand Ballroom**

**9:15am - 1:30pm**

In partnership with...



For further information, contact Paul Jones / Becc Dalgleish on 9413 4850 or email, [abilities.expo@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:abilities.expo@education.wa.edu.au)





## 2019 AASE Conference | Program Announced

AASE Tasmania are delighted to release the 2019 program for the AASE National Conference. Click this link to download the Conference Program.

<https://az659834.vo.msecnd.net/eventsairaeuprod/production-gems-public/babd5aef654047ed8f8f8fdb1c7cdb9f>

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM: MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER**

7.30 am	Conference Registration – Tea and Coffee on Arrival				
8.30 am	Welcome to Delegates and Housekeeping Conference Emcee				
8.40 am	Opening Student Performance				
8.50 am	Acknowledgement of Country				
8.55 am	Official Conference Opening Tim Bullard, Secretary, Department of Education Tasmania				
9.05 am	Keynote Presentation: Nathan Wallis, XFactor Education, New Zealand				
10.05 am	Morning Tea				
Stream	Leadership	Inclusive Practice	Engagement & Wellbeing	Transitions	Working in Partnerships
10.35 am – 11.30 am	The South Australian Education Department Approach - Aligning Personalised Learning, Planning, Inclusive Education, Researching and the National Consistent Collection of Data  Ian May and Cathy Clark, Department of Education, SA	Putting Autistic Interests in Your Instructions (With 'Quiet Magic')  Chris Varney I Can Network, VIC	Interception Program: Whole School Approach to Wellbeing  Caitlin Lean and Melanie Leslie Department of Education, SA	Designing Inclusive Transition Programs Using Universal Design for Learning Principles  Assoc Prof Dianne Chambers and Assoc Prof Anne Coffey University of Notre Dame, WA	Liberating Education: Visible Differentiation in a Special Education Classroom  Vivienne Gilkes St Edmund's College, NSW and Jacqui Cashmore, St Gabriel's School, NSW
5-minute room change					

2019 AASE National Conference Program – 14 May 2019

Stream	Leadership	Inclusive Practice	Engagement & Wellbeing	Transitions	Working in Partnerships
11.25 am – 11.55 am	The "HOW" of Inclusion – 10 Considerations for Schools  Tracey Walker Department of Education, VIC	Inclusive Learning Program Through Play-Based Activities – Supporting Children with All Abilities  Mandy Lau Reach & Match, VIC	Personalised Assessment and Management of Social Competence in Childhood and Adolescence  Prof Vicki Anderson Murdoch Children's Research Institute, VIC	Transitioning Primary School Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder from a Special Education Setting to a Mainstream Classroom: Successes and Difficulties  Dr Roselyn Dixon University of Wollongong, NSW	Are You Sensing What I'm Sensing?: The Outcomes of a Multi-Sensory Storytelling Program for Young Children with Additional Needs  Dr Susan Main Edith Cowan University, WA
5-minute room change					
Stream	Engagement & Wellbeing	Inclusive Practice	Engagement & Wellbeing	Transitions	Inclusive Practice
12.00 pm – 12.30 pm	Secret Agent Society Whole-of-Class Utility Trials  Kathleen Davey Social Skills Training Institute, QLD	Harnessing the Power of Good Pedagogy and Motivation to Finally See Adolescents with Learning Difficulties Flourish  Matthew White Sydney Catholic Schools, NSW	Disengaged or Disempowered? Empowering Students to Transform and Engage in Education  Dr Steven Newton Department of Education, QLD	Evaluation of Transition Programming at NextPath  Tennille Bertram Mater Dei, NSW	Using Whole School Moderation to Enhance Understanding of the Victorian Curriculum Thereby Improving Student Learning Outcomes  Karen Hunt and Stefanie Young Glennallen School, VIC
12.30 pm	Lunch				
1.30 pm – 2.30 pm	Keynote Presentation Dolly Bhargava				
2.30 pm – 2.45 pm	National President's Report Peter Walker, University of South Australia				
2.45 pm – 2.55 pm	Announcement of the 2020 AASE National Conference				
3.55 pm	Afternoon Tea				

2019 AASE National Conference Program – 14 May 2019

## Key Note Speakers

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### **Prof Pasi Sahlberg**

*Pasi Sahlberg has worked as school teacher, teacher-educator, researcher, and policy advisor in Finland and has analysed education policies and advised education policymakers around the world. He has gained working knowledge in over 60 countries around the world as former senior education specialist at the World Bank in Washington, DC, lead education specialist at the European Training Foundation, director general of the Ministry of Education in Finland, and a visiting professor at Harvard University. In Finland his career includes mathematics and science teacher and teacher educator at the University of Helsinki, Director of the Center for School Development at the University of Helsinki, Counsellor of Education at the Finnish National Board of Education, and Director General at the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. He is recipient of the 2012 Education Award in Finland, 2013 Grawemeyer Award in the U.S., the 2014 Robert Owen Award in Scotland, the 2016 Lego Prize in Denmark, and Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Resident Fellowship in Italy in 2017. He has published widely in academic journals, professional magazines and public media about educational issue and is a member of several academic journal's editorial boards. Pasi has served as an advisor to the Minister of Education of Sweden (through the Swedish School Commission), the Minister of Education in Malta, Minister of Education in Finland, and is currently advisor to the First Minister of Scotland (through International Council of Education Advisors). He is adjunct professor at the University of Oulu and the University of Helsinki. Pasi is Finnish citizen now living with his family in Sydney, Australia.*



### **Dr Jeffrey Thomas**

*Dr Thomas lectures in Behaviour Management at the University of Tasmania. He has a driving enthusiasm for understanding how to improve student engagement, especially for those students for whom school is not a friendly or accepting place. His*



presentation will focus on:

*"If engagement is the relationship between a student and education, why do we see so many students with disability becoming disengaged and what does it mean for our schooling practices?"*

### **Nathan Wallis**

*Nathan is a father of three and foster father to many more. His professional background includes early childhood teacher, child therapist, social service manager, university lecturer and neuroscience trainer. Internationally acclaimed, Nathan is in hot demand throughout New Zealand, Australia and internationally. He appears on National Radio and TV as a guest expert on parenting, teaching and understanding the brain development of young people. Inspirational and charismatic, Nathan's ability to translate neuroscience into everyday life engages all audiences.*



### **Dolly Bhargava**

*Dolly Bhargava is a disability specialist speech pathologist. Dolly works with children, adolescents and adults with intellectual and/or multiple disabilities in a range of settings. Her work focuses on a range of issues relating to communication, behaviour management, emotional literacy, vocation, culture and disability.*



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## **AASE WA National Conference Bursary 2019 | Deadline Extended!**

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The application submission date for the AASE WA National Conference Bursary 2019 has been extended to the **7th July, 2019**. Please pass on to your networks as this is a fantastic opportunity.



AASE WA is committed to providing access to quality professional learning opportunities to ensure students are provided with services from highly qualified and engaged staff. To this end, an occasional national conference bursary is offered to members of AASE WA.

The 2019 AASE WA Bursary will provide the successful recipient with funds to cover the majority of the costs of attendance at the AASE National Conference in Hobart, Tasmania, 22-24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

One Bursary will be awarded to an AASE WA member to attend the AASE National Conference.

- The Bursary will cover the cost of full conference registration, including Welcome Reception, and \$1000 towards airfares and accommodation.
- Application for the Bursary is encouraged from all members of AASE WA.
- To apply, complete the attached application form and email to: (jennifer.lockyer2@education.wa.edu.au) by 5:00pm on Monday 1st of July 2019 (no late applications will be accepted). Applicants will be notified of the result of their application by Monday 8th of July.

For enquiries please contact Rachael.Jones@education.wa.edu.au. See <https://gems.eventsair.com/2019-aase-national-conference/> for conference information.

### **Selection Criteria for the 2019 AASE WA National Conference Bursary**

1. The recipient will be a current member of the AASE WA Chapter.
2. The Bursary is to attend the AASE National Conference 2019 in Hobart, Tasmania, 22-24<sup>th</sup> September.
3. Attendance at the Conference should have the potential to enhance the work/knowledge of the recipient in his/her workplace/home or in the educational context of WA.
4. The successful applicant is required to contribute an article to the next AASE WA newsletter following their attendance (support will be provided if required).

The decision on who is to receive the AASE WA National Conference Bursary will be made by the AASE WA selection group based on the set criteria.

Careful consideration will be made when addressing the criteria which must be met in full for a final decision to be made by the selection group committee.

*Funds will be provided on presentation of paid tax invoices to the Treasurer of AASE WA, PO Box 507, Leederville 6903 [mbivens@iinet.net.au](mailto:mbivens@iinet.net.au)*





## AASE WA NATIONAL CONFERENCE BURSARY 2019

Hobart, Tasmania 22-24 September, 2019

### APPLICATION FORM

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Postal address</b>	
<b>Phone (home/work)</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>School/organisation</b>	
<b>Position</b>	
<b>Cost of attending the conference</b>	
<b>SELECTION CRITERIA</b>	
<p><b>What benefits can you see arising from your attendance at the conference?</b></p> <p><b>For example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How might your attendance at the conference enhance your work/ support of students with disability?</i></li> <li>• <i>What contribution might this make to the WA context?</i></li> <li>• <i>How might this extend your professional perspective?</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>How will you share the knowledge gained with your professional community?</b></p>	

In submitting this application I confirm that I am willing to write an article about this PD opportunity for the AASE WA Newsletter following the conference

**Can be expanded to no more than one sheet of A4 paper.**

Please return this completed form to [jennifer.lockyer2@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.lockyer2@education.wa.edu.au) by **7th July 2019**.

## AASE Research Award | Applications Open

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**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION Inc  
(AASE)**

### **AASE RESEARCH AWARD**

The AASE Research Award has been established to provide an opportunity for research which can support evidence-based practice in the education of students with special needs. It is funded from contributions by members – teachers, academics, therapists and others involved in the education of students with disability. In 2019 up to **\$15,000** is available for research that meets the AASE Research Award criteria.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE AASE RESEARCH AWARD**

To support research to identify

- effective teaching strategies to advance the learning of students with special needs
- optimum provision of and access to quality education services for students with special needs
- quality teacher education and professional development leading to positive outcomes for students with special needs.

#### **FOCUS FOR RESEARCH 2019**

The focus for research projects for 2019 will be consistent with the Strategic Aims of AASE Inc:

- Preparation and support of educators to enable provision of quality education for students with special needs
- Evaluation and dissemination of evidence about the efficacy of the use of technology in learning for students with special education needs
- Contributing to the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

#### **PROTOCOLS**

- The AASE Research Award will be funded managed by AASE National Council.

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**Closing date for applications    1 July 2019 8pm AEST**

Enquiries about the AASE Research Award

*Carmel Blake*

*aaseexec@outlook.com*

Applications to be sent to AASE Executive Officer

*aaseexec@outlook.com*

- The AASE National Council will establish an AASE Research Award Committee which will manage the Award in conjunction with the AASE National Executive and appropriate university research bodies.

## APPLICATIONS

Applicants must submit a description of their prospective research project including:

- Applicant's names, academic background, current positions, roles, organisation
- Proposed aims/outcomes of project
- Rationale/background for project including a brief literature review
- Methodology for research
- Significance and relevance to the objectives of the AASE National Research Award and AASE strategic objectives
- Budget – costs/other funding sources
- Timeline for project
- Arrangements for obtaining ethics approval for the project Details of a nominated University Research Office to manage funds
- Applications should be limited to 5 pages.
- Applications to be submitted to the AASE Executive Officer [aaseexec@outlook.com](mailto:aaseexec@outlook.com)

## REPORTING

- Annual reports are required for AASE sole-funded and jointly-funded projects and a final report is required at the end of each research project. Completion of all projects will be negotiated within a 3 year period.

## DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

- On conclusion of the research a research paper may be offered to the Editorial Committee of *the Australasian Journal of Special Education*, and/or a report to the *Special Education Perspectives* for consideration for publication. An Executive Summary will be placed on the AASE website,

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**Closing date for applications      1 July 2019 8pm AEST**

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[aaseexec@outlook.com](mailto:aaseexec@outlook.com)

Applications to be sent to AASE Executive Officer

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• Where appropriate and relevant to the theme of the conference program, the researcher may be invited to present the results of the research at the annual AASE National Conference following the submission of the research report.

#### SCHEDULE OF FUNDS

The Research Funds will be provided to the applicant's university or organisation following discussion between the applicant's organisation and the AASE Treasurer.

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**Closing date for applications**      **1 July 2019 8pm AEST**

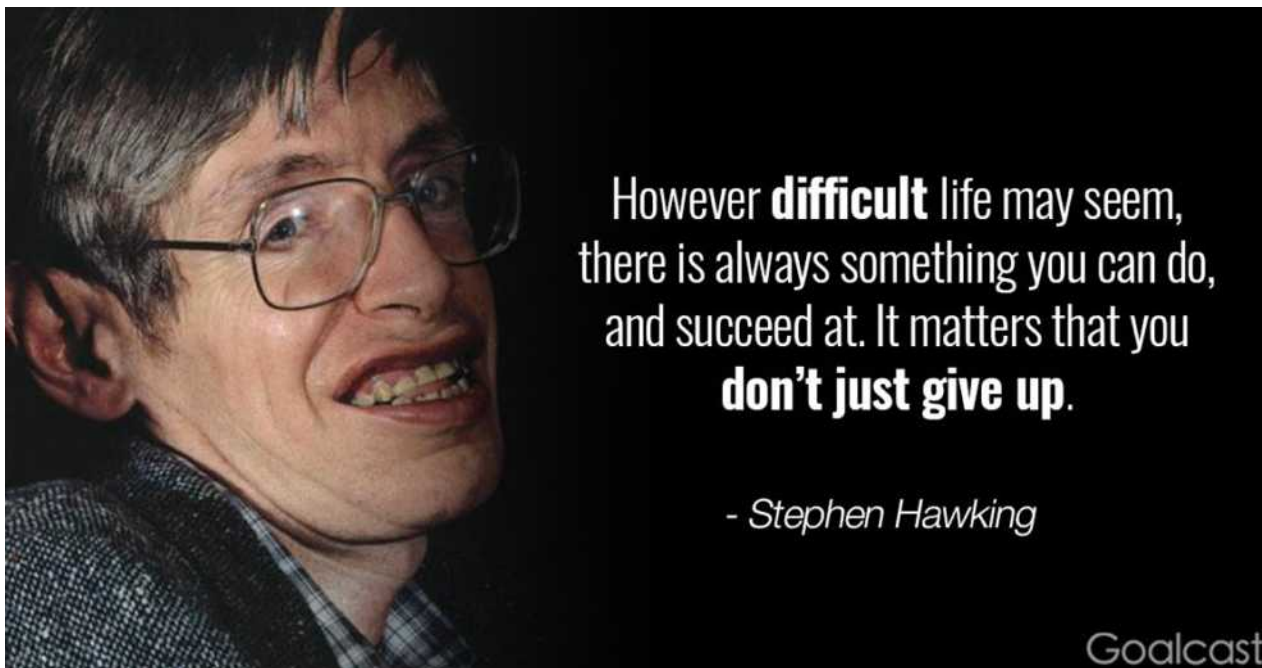
Enquiries about the AASE Research Award

*Carmel Blake*

*aaseexec@outlook.com*

Applications to be sent to AASE Executive Officer

*aaseexec@outlook.com*



## AASE WA Executive & Committee 2019

### Executive

President:	Susan Main	<a href="mailto:s.main@ecu.edu.au">s.main@ecu.edu.au</a>
Vice-President:	Alana Williams	<a href="mailto:Alana.Williams@cewa.edu.au">Alana.Williams@cewa.edu.au</a>
Treasurer:	Mark Bivens	<a href="mailto:mark.bivens2@education.wa.edu.au">mark.bivens2@education.wa.edu.au</a>
Secretary:	Jenny Lockyer	<a href="mailto:jennifer.lockyer2@education.wa.edu.au">jennifer.lockyer2@education.wa.edu.au</a>

### Committee

Rachael Jones	<a href="mailto:rachael.jones@education.wa.edu.au">rachael.jones@education.wa.edu.au</a>
Julie Halvorson	<a href="mailto:Julie.Halvorson@cewa.edu.au">Julie.Halvorson@cewa.edu.au</a>
Jo Thompson	<a href="mailto:joanne.thompson4@education.wa.edu.au">joanne.thompson4@education.wa.edu.au</a>
Dianne Chambers	<a href="mailto:dianne.chambers1@nd.edu.au">dianne.chambers1@nd.edu.au</a>
Maggie Balfe	<a href="mailto:mbalfe@ais.wa.edu.au">mbalfe@ais.wa.edu.au</a>