

indicated they would like to form smaller learning communities. However, the maximum number is 25 due to the constraints on workshop presenters and costs.

Included in the Professional Learning Communities package was a detailed information sheet about the project, an application form and a flyer. Additional application forms and further information are available on the BBS website or from Curriculum Services.

Applications for the project close on Friday 16 September 2005.

Contact: Trish Hansen, Ph 8999 3759 or email trish.hansen@nt.gov.au

Collaborative Trial Sites

A big welcome to George Hewitson, currently the Principal of Kalkaringi CEC, and the new Coordinator for the Collaborative Trial Sites program. George brings a wealth of experience in remote secondary education to the position.

There has been an overwhelming response from remote schools interested in collaborating with other schools for on-site delivery of secondary education.

The next step is for schools and communities, who have expressed an interest, to learn more about the project. The Schools Division team will discuss proposals with applicants before decisions are made as to who participates in this innovative program.

Participation in this program will undoubtedly be a steep learning curve for many schools. Focussed networking, dedication and support will ensure the success of these trials.

Contact: George Hewitson, Ph 8975 0778 or email george.hewitson@latis.net.au

Chief Executive's Student Forum

NT secondary students from both urban and remote areas are currently participating in a series of focus groups to help inform the development of the Chief Executive's Student Forum. Project Coordinator Sarah Oppenheim is canvassing views from the students, giving them an opportunity to express their ideas about education and a chance to make suggestions about how the student forum might best operate.

Following this consultation, a number of pilot student forums are planned for September and October. Scheduled to coincide with the Executive Group Meetings, these forums will take place in a range of regional areas across the Territory to engage a cross-section of secondary students. Schools will soon be asked to nominate students to participate in these pilot sessions.

Contact: Sarah Oppenheim, Ph 8901 1384 or email sarah.oppenheim@nt.gov.au

Indigenous Students' Leadership and Mentorship Program

Government secondary schools across the Territory have responded with enthusiasm to the Indigenous Students' Leadership and Mentorship Program. The closing date has now passed with almost 70 applications received and the successful applicants will be advised in the very near future.

Preparations are underway for an Induction Day to be held in late September for the successful first round of students. Project Coordinator Sarah Oppenheim is putting together an exciting program for the day, which will include a series of interactive workshops that explore the concepts of leadership and mentorship in a practical sense. The day will also involve an award ceremony at Parliament House when the inaugural students will have their place on the program officially recognised.

Contact: Sarah Oppenheim, Ph 8901 1384 or email sarah.oppenheim@nt.gov.au

Distance Education

The consultation around developing a new distance education model is well underway. Our consultants Gary Barnes and Phil Buchanan returned in early August to continue discussions with a range of stakeholders across the Territory. The consultants are working through all the ideas presented to develop a model that builds on our existing system of delivery.

Special thanks to our distance education principals Jen Coad, Sherrill Christensen and Ursula Balfour, who have worked closely with the consultants throughout this process. Thanks also to all those who have contributed so far especially those from our remote schools who hosted our consultants or travelled in to participate in the discussions.

SNAPSHOT > Qualified Counsellors

Student Services have completed job descriptions for the 19 Qualified School Counsellor positions and the Professional Supervisor, Psychologist position. Student Services, Schools Division and Building Better Schools are continuing to working together to progress this initiative.

Next edition:

- > Data collection and reporting - Lets make data count
- > More on the middle years consultation
- > VET, vocational and enterprise learning

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