

2017 HASS SA CONFERENCE REPORT



The report will *highlight HASS SA 2017 Conference* which consists of constructive information with a glimpse of various remarkable themes for primary and secondary teachers in their respectful disciplinary areas. Let's focus on some of the significant questions as educators. *What is the place of HASS in the Australian Curriculum? What is the HASS thinking? What does Humanities Education offer? What do we see the future of HASS? How to bring clarity to the future? How to engage Australian Curriculum for young students?*

To commence with, in the Australian Curriculum - The Humanities and Social Sciences learning area involves: *A study of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business*. Young people must develop a sense of wonder, interest about places, people and cultures (McInerney, 2017). The Humanities and Social Science subjects provides a broad understanding of the world in which we live, and how people can partake as active and knowledgeable citizens in the 21st century. The key concept is to understand 'Our World.' Researchers play an important part into the human practices which adds to our awareness about 'Our World.' Through scholars one learns about the principles of diverse cultures, a work of art and how history is made. In fact, their efforts preserve the great accomplishments of the past; help us understand the world we live in, and give us tools to imagine for the future (McInerney, 2013).

Today, humanistic knowledge continues to provide the ideal groundwork for discovering and accepting the human experiences. For example, learning another language might help gain an appreciation for the similarities in differences of cultures. Studying the History Curriculum helps young people to better understand the past; while at the same time offers a clearer image of the future. Through exploration of the humanities, it is important to think creatively and critically, to reason, and to ask questions. Due to these skills, it allows educators to provide an insightful understanding into moral, ethical, political, and ideological forces. It is significant to educate students about the contemporary and what's going on in the world around us. An interesting term called, 'Living Geography' which means that one can relate to

everyday lives such as, sports, music and career. It is important to utilize technology in the global 21st century society such as, GIS, GPS as they prepare for life and work (McInerney, 2017). Educators can implement special technologies to be used in their classrooms. Undeniably, 'Field work' encourages young people to investigate the world and to extend learning outside the classroom such as, field trips, service learning and community engagement, technology outside the classroom and assessment of field experiences. Young people ought to develop skills and knowledge through understanding and sharing ideas with interactive debates, discussions and for problem solving scenarios. The main skills that young people must acquire involve are questioning, researching [using reliable sources], analyzing, evaluating and communicating to be a successful critical thinker.

There are three **workshops** that this report will address are:

1. *History teaching for early career teachers (Years 7-10)*
2. *Voting in the classroom (Years 8-10)*
3. *Stolen Generations (Years 7-10)*

A few **effective tips** will be discussed and they are as follows: Partnerships, be active within the *History teaching* community, take the time to be professionals, explore the historical content, choose the curriculum wisely, develop a resume and do not hesitate to ask for help. It is important to establish a teaching network through peers, leadership staff members or mentors. Teachers should set goals, specifically related to History Curriculum which is achievable. It is a good idea to organize and experiment variety of different assessment tasks such as, essay writing, research paper, create online resources, maps, posters to make it meaningful and educational for young people.

Voting in the classroom is a great opportunity to collaborate with other classes and to give students experience with the election process through an understanding of the political and election vocabulary. Some of the materials may include but not limited to: Enrolment forms, ballot box, ballot papers, pencils, voter registration cards and voting screen etc. This activity allows young people to enhance their knowledge and create awareness of knowing which candidates participate for a specific party through voting and making their own decisions.

The **stories** of the 'Stolen Generations' are real, emotional and meaningful. Educators can maintain and update effective resources to be used in the classroom. For example, "Bringing Them Home (Report)", "The Stolen Generation (Stories)", "The Burnt Stick" by Anthony Hill, "Tell Me Why" (Song) by Declan Galbraith and "Down the hole". It provides the chance for young people to comprehensively tackle for the first time 50,000 years of Australia's history and to learn the First Australians truly remarkable stories.

Creating a **data sharing culture** among teachers is a way to organize and communicate student data, such as by setting up an online student information system and parent portal. The aspects of learning from the conference will be shared with colleagues and/or learners, parents, families or the school community through means of communication. Also, teachers can pass on data with families is through quarterly report cards and during brief parent-teacher conferences are valuable means of updating parents on their child's progress. In addition, aided by technology tools that have opened up new ways to stay connected via emails and/or after school visits. Through supporting and providing assistance for families makes a big difference for individuals such as, the ability to access, understand, and act on information about their child's growth.

Educators can help school by supporting staff associates, parent liaisons, and guidance counselors and understand how they can help with data sharing. These methods can include phone calls, emails, text messages, and online data systems. Effective family engagement strategies include providing families with accessible, understandable, and actionable data on their child's development. When teachers share student data with families; including traditional measurements of student progress such as, test scores and course grades, as well as less traditional information such as a student's preparedness and problem solving ability. Families are able to gain a comprehensive understanding of their child's strengths, interests, and challenges, and identify action steps to help advance the child's learning. Thus, ongoing professional development keep educators up-to-date on recent research on how students learn, emerge technology tools for the classroom, explore the new Australian Curriculum resources, and more. It is

collaboration with teachers, parents, principals, school communities, colleagues, staff members to stay connected with new learning and to understand young people's culture.

Bibliography

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