

On 24 November I had an online meeting with 6 staff members from DESE. Please find below a summary of the topics covered. DESE intend to continue the consultations with CaSPA and CAP every 2 months into the future.

TOPICS

- **General update from DESE.**

Education council meeting is 11 December and a communique will be released shortly afterwards.

Future leaders Program – Targetting rural and remote areas of Australia to retain staff and promote leadership. There will be a Pilot in northern W.A. in 2021/2 with 40 participants. I suggested that a community welfare / well-being should be included along with an education that is more suited to these areas.

It is worth noting that there is a Minister for Regional Areas now.

There is \$25M available currently to investigate the key issues related to COVID-19 impacts on schools and education in Australia.

The recent release of the Conran Review has highlighted the Education Council will be chaired by the Commonwealth Minister in future and the agenda of the Education Council will be prioritised to reduce agenda items. Non priority items will be handled by the DESE. I commented that this will be a great way for DESE to build on the consultations with CAP & CaSPA.

- **Initial Teacher Education**

There was discussion as to whether all of the recommendations from TEMAG have been implemented yet. I made the point that schools and teachers do want to contribute back to the profession but Universities need to invest more in the practical experience and have a signed agreement with schools. In addition, the Universities should contribute more to the payments for teachers and coordinators as part of the agreement. I also said that Universities should visit the students and help them with placements.

- **Teacher training & employment in Rural & Remote areas**

I emphasised that the Minister needs to consider incentives that will work to attract and retain staff in the remote schools. HECS reduction is a good idea but issues like accommodation and travel costs may also be needed. There was also discussion as to how to provide networks for the staff to reduce the feeling of isolation. Promoting the status of the profession could also assist.

- **COVID-19 and Ministers collaboration with Principal Associations in the future**

I reinforced the concept of stakeholder consultations prior to making announcements about how schools are to run. The short notice of decisions was also a problem for the Ministers to consider in the future.

- **Coalition of Australian Principals (CAP) meeting with the Minister in 2021**

To be advised in 2021

- **CAP survey of school leaders**

I will forward the results to DESE when they become available.

- **Next catch up**

Late January 2021

Phil Lewis
CaSPA Executive Officer