

WELCOME to Spring 2007 newsletter for *Wellbeing Australia*.

The website is <http://www.wellbeingaustralia.com.au>



If you become disheartened that caring communities are beyond reach hang in there! Read Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point* which reminds us that little things add up and make a difference. Every small step, every positive conversation, every constructive act we make adds to the discourse and the changing shape of the bigger picture. Here are a few significant examples.

In Victoria the Catholic Education Wellbeing Co-ordinators are asked to work with a Core Team at the school to develop a whole school approach to the promotion of wellbeing with a focus on prevention and early intervention. This includes:

- Promoting the development of school community partnerships to support stronger links with parents
- Developing social and emotional teaching and learning strategies linked to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards
- Providing day to day advice to principals on student wellbeing as issues emerge.
- Developing partnerships with community facilities and agencies

- Supporting the implementation of National and State initiatives linked to wellbeing e.g. National Safe Schools Framework, Drug Education.

In South Australia the Department of Education and Children's Service Professional Standards for Teachers includes a section on Relationships. This details what can be expected of educators at different stages of their career in relation to children and students, teachers and staff and schools and communities. The headings include: demonstrate competence in communication; understand, empathise with and be aware of the other person's context; value diversity; manage conflict and difference; establish and promote productive relationships with all stakeholders; use a range of strategies for engaging with the broader community.

On the website we have added to our All About section All about Bullying. This includes a brief summary of what teachers do to reduce bullying in Steiner Schools. It also gives links research at UWS on the role of the bystander <http://wellbeingaustralia.com.au/All%20about.html> On the home page you can download an interesting report from the APA that says Zero Tolerance punitive approaches in the US are not only ineffective but lower academic results overall.

Conferences: The website includes a report on the highlights of the Happiness and its Causes in Sydney in May, the National Family Wellbeing Symposium in June and the Mindmatters conference in August.

Conferences coming up are the Australian Council for Educational Leaders October 10-12 Sydney, Restorative Practices conference on *Transformational Change* on the Sunshine Coast October 18th and 19th October, NCAB conference in Melbourne November 3rd and 4th entitled *Promoting Positive Relationships for Safer School Communities*, the Reach Out conference in Brisbane on 8th and 9th November on *Health and Wellbeing in Schools* and on January 20th to 24th 2008 *The Role of Spirituality in Education and Health* in Ballarat, Victoria. Details <http://wellbeingaustralia.com.au/Events.html>

Letting people know about Wellbeing Australia

Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to your own networks and other interested colleagues. Any feedback is also helpful.

Many members are doing work related to wellbeing, resilience, emotional literacy, restorative practices and relational values. Anyone who wants a conference/workshop/training course/ seminar etc publicised on the Events Page of the website let us know. Send details such as title, venue, cost and contact

The next **Circle Time training** days are on Fridays November 2nd in Melbourne and November 23rd in Sydney <http://wellbeingaustralia.com.au/Events.html>