



## iNet Australia: An Overview

International Networking for Educational Transformation or iNet was established in 2004 as an initiative of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust in England.

The mission of iNet is to create powerful and innovative networks of schools that have achieved or have committed themselves to achieving significant, systematic and sustained change that ensures outstanding outcomes for all students in all settings (this is the meaning attached to the concept of transformation).

Dr Wendy Cahill is appointed as Head of iNet Australia. Wendy works with a National Strategy Group and state based Principal Reference Groups, who plan and implement an agenda which is governed by a 'for schools, by schools' approach. The iNet National Strategy Group includes Associate Professor Jim Davies from the Australian Science & Mathematics school, South Australia, Michael Phillips, Principal of Ringwood Secondary College and Karen Cain Assistant Director Gippsland DEECS from Victoria, Greg Whitby, Director of Catholic Education, Parramatta, Dr Margaret Varady AO, Principal of Sydney Girls High School and Hilary Johnston Croke, Principal of Kincoppal Rose Bay, School of the Sacred Heart in NSW.

The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust is a non-profit charitable organisation in England. Its mission is to build a world-class network of innovative, high performing schools in partnership with business and the wider community. It is the main body that provides support for the Government's programme to build a world-class system of schools.

The Trust has created a network of almost 3000 secondary schools in England. While it is a major agent for the implementation of the Government's programme in secondary education, it is strongly committed to the view that schools should work with each other to share best practice and provide mutual support and challenge. This network includes primary schools who have become very active in Australia. The Trust recognises that these activities should extend to the international setting, hence the initiative in 2004 to create iNet.

The Trust has established networks through its iNet initiative in Australia, Chile, China, England, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa and Mauritius. Including those schools that are not in national networks, about 3,200 schools have

affiliated with iNet. Discussions are under way with representatives of government and other authorities, institutions and organisations to establish similar networks in other countries.

Activities of existing networks include international study programmes involving school leaders, regional and national conferences, four international conferences in Melbourne (2004) and Amsterdam (2005), Boston 2006, Beijing (2007); journals describing innovative practices in primary and secondary schools, global online conferences to share information about innovation and transformation, the creation of national websites and an international website that links to these, and small books by leading scholars.

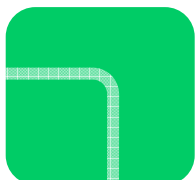
International bank HSBC is a major sponsor of iNet, and the HSBC iNet Chair in International Leadership at the Institute of Education at the University of London. The Foundation Chair is Professor David Hopkins, former Chief Advisor to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in England and an internationally renowned scholar in school improvement. Professor Hopkins is leading the effort to create an international degree in school leadership. HSBC supports the development of learning resources for this degree and was the major sponsor of a conference of outstanding school principals held in Beijing in October 2006.

iNet Australia offers significant programs in Raising Achievement (RATL) and Developing Young Leaders who partner with colleagues from other countries in on-line learning communities. Highlights for 2008 will include a seminar series presented by international speakers and curriculum approaches using subject specific Lead Practitioners and Toolkits.

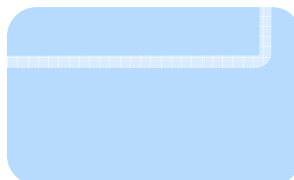
iNet Learning Walks have been highly successful in assisting professional to share effective practices. iNet Australia has held 3 national conferences, the last, *Essential Questions for Schools and Communities* was held in Melbourne in April 2007 for over 300 participants.

iNet will offer programs in Brisbane Adelaide Melbourne and Sydney in the coming months. Professor David Hopkins will present *Your 21st Century School* in May; Professor Yong Zhao will offer seminars in February 2008 and Professor David Hargreaves is also expected in the March to work on system redesign

Details can be obtained from the iNet Australia website [www.sst-inet.com.au](http://www.sst-inet.com.au)



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