Process Performance Improvements in Schools

The Southern Cross Program, which focuses on process and performance management, helps empower staff to introduce change at their schools. The program provides a team with tools to assist them to:

- maximise limited resources
- improve productivity
- define and clarify a process
- engage with stakeholders.

Over 40 Member Schools have experienced the program and they have improved the efficiency and effectiveness of an aspect of their school. The Southern Cross Program is full of practical tools that have been applied by other non-education sectors, and has been available in Australia through Independent Schools Victoria since 2011 as a result of our work with the America Productivity and Quality Center (APQC).

Here is a list (PDF) of all the projects undertaken so far. To find out more, watch schools share their experiences with the Southern Cross Program.

The Southern Cross Program is a four-day program, and schools put together a team of four to seven people. The next set of training dates is in August followed by November:

- Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13, Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 August 2014
- Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12, Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 November 2014

The Program will also be offered during 2015.

The cost of the Southern Cross Program is $13,000.00 (plus GST). Given that the Program consists of a team of four to seven people engaged in training for four days, as well as the ongoing support provided and long-term cost savings in your school, we believe that a fee of $13,000.00 (plus GST) represents excellent value for money.

From Strategy to Action

In March 2014, we adapted the Southern Cross Program for Senior Leaders and developed a new program titled ‘From Strategy to Action’. This program enables participants to be trained and coached in the principles of process and performance management from a leadership perspective.

By participating in this course, participants will:

- understand how to link your strategic plan to your school improvement plan
- structure leadership roles for effective management of work streams and improvement efforts
- create strategic goals and correlate to improvement initiatives
- prioritise improvement opportunities using gap analysis
- set up improvement projects for successful implementation
- create measurement systems to monitor progress on strategic plans and capture meaningful improvement results
- learn strategies for engaging staff and stakeholders in integrated decision making
- develop action plans focused on achieving strategic objectives and measurable improvement.

Some of the drivers behind our development of this program are:

- strategic Planning
- School Improvement Plan
- feedback from the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

Two cohorts of Principals participated in the program in March and May of this year, and the feedback indicates that they feel very well placed to implement their strategic and school improvement plans.

From Strategy to Action is a four-day program that is organised into 2, two-day blocks, structured three months apart so that participants can practise their skills back in the school environment.

The cost for this program is usually $5000.00 (plus GST); however, we are pleased to be able to offer Member Schools the opportunity of attending this program for $2000.00 (plus GST) due to the support of the Australian Government.

The dates for this program are:

- Cohort 3 – Thursday 14 August, Friday 15 August, Thursday 13 November and Friday 14 November 2014
- Cohort 4 – Wednesday 20 August, Thursday 21 August, Wednesday 19 November and Thursday 20 November 2014.

For more information on these programs and how it can help improve efficiency and improve systems at your school, please contact Peter Roberts, Director, School Services via email or phone on (03) 9825 7211.