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A Defining Time

Health, Physical Education,
Sport & Recreation

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Editors

Dr John Quay and Dr Amanda Mooney

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Editorial

It is with pleasure that we present the full papers of the 28th ACHPER International conference.

The papers presented here make an important contribution to the field of Health and Physical Education in Australia at this important time, this defining time, when we are dealing with cementing our place in the Australian Curriculum.

A noticeable thread running through the papers is acknowledgment of the importance of various Australian jurisdictions – Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales – to commentary on issues to do with the broad notion of Health and Physical Education. Such identification of State perspective points to a diversity that can only continue to enrich an Australian Curriculum. Additionally, the international perspective contributes to a curriculum discussion that spans more than just one nation.

Consideration is given, across the papers presented, to a range of concerns which continue to define the future development of Health and Physical Education. Much is said about pre-service teacher training and the issues that face this very important section of our community – both lecturers and students. And then there are issues that pervade the contemporary classroom, such as social media and sexuality. How are we confronting these challenges?

Models of teaching and learning in Health and Physical Education are central to the ways in which we discuss our practice, and these feature prominently in the papers presented.

In considering our future it is always relevant to consult the past. The historical perspective is presented around both Health Education and Physical Education as these have developed in Australia. Such retrospection cannot but help inform our attempts to continue to improve. We also welcome perspectives from different countries and different cultures. These continue to add to the intercultural dialogue that must form part of the global future of Health and Physical Education.

Overall, we believe that this collection of full papers helps to illuminate the current situation in Health and Physical Education, enabling us to learn from each other as we all attempt to adjust to an ever changing Australian and international context that continually asks us not only to define, but to redefine, Health and Physical Education.

We commend this collection to you and hope that the papers included will help you in the ongoing quest to improve your understanding and your practice.

Dr John Quay and Dr Amanda Mooney
ACHPER International Conference Program Directors

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