**E-newsletter #1 November 2013**

Welcome to the first Science ASSIST e-news.

The management team will regularly update stakeholders with progress and activities, as we rapidly head towards a launch mid way through 2014.

We encourage you and your organisation to get behind this exciting and innovative initiative and welcome your feedback, questions and comments.

**Survey**

Thank you to all 1902 respondents of the Science ASSIST preliminary survey that closed in late September. The information received has provided the management team with some insights into those areas we have identified as strategic implications.

Results and analysis of the survey and the strategic implications can be found on the ASTA website <http://asta.edu.au/programs/assist>

The project team is keen to seek your views and input and will be conducting a number of future surveys to inform the Science ASSIST program. Please take a few minutes to respond (to future surveys) and so continue to be a part of this exciting initiative.

**Science ASSIST Project Reference Group**

On 23 October 2013 the Science ASSIST Project Reference Group had its inaugural meeting in Canberra. The group has broad representation from education departments, organisations and professional associations across the sector.

ACARA

ASELL

Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA)

ATSE

Australian Academy of Science (AAS)

Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers

Australian Catholic University

Australian Council of Deans of Science (ACDS)

Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA)

Australian Secondary Principals Association (ASPA)

CSIRO Education

Department of Education (DEEWR)

Education Queensland

Education Services Australia (ESA)

National Catholic Education Commission

NSW Department of Education and Training

NT Department of Education and Training

Office of the Chief Scientist

PrimaryConnections

RACI

SA Department of Education and Child Development (DECD)

Safe Work Australia

Science Education technicians Australia (SETA)

TAS Department of Education

University of Canberra

WA Department of Education

There is strong support for the Science ASSIST project from the Project Reference group and the project team look forward to close collaborations with each organisation to ensure that their views and priorities are regularly considered as the project progresses.

The Reference Group will meet again in August 2014 for an annual progress report.

**Science ASSIST expert groups appointed**

Late last week the members of Online Science Teaching Expert Group (OSTEG) and the Online Laboratory Technicians Advisory Group (OLTAG) were selected. The ASSIST team were most impressed by the level of interest in the expert groups and also by the quality of the applications received. We look forward to working with this group of experienced and skilled educators.

OSTEG members are: David Keystone Vic, Shelley Murphy Qld, Marianne Nicholas SA, Helen Silvester Vic, Julie Weber WA, Alicia Brown Vic, Geoff Quinton WA, Craig Tilley Vic.

The role of OSTEG will be to provide expert teaching and learning advice to teachers of science F–12 through the Science ASSIST online portal.

OLTAG members are: Rita Steffe NSW, Joanne Mills ACT, Deb Barnett QLD, Virginia Ward SA, Peter Turnbull SA, Kris Nelson Szalai Tas, Dale Carroll Vic, Marilyn Miles WA.

The role of OLTAG will be to provide consistent and authoritative advice and technical support in safe practices in school science laboratories to guide school science technicians and teachers through the Science ASSIST online portal.

The OSTEG and OLTAG will meet in Adelaide on 9 December 2013 for an induction workshop.

*Science ASSIST Management Team.*