Dear Principal

**Australian Government Summer Schools for Teachers**

Teachers are a precious national resource and the teaching profession in Australia deserves greater recognition and reward.

As part of the 2007-08 Budget, the Australian Government committed $101.7 million over 4 years to establish *Australian Government Summer Schools for Teachers*. This innovative initiative will recognise and reward up to 4,000 of Australia’s best teachers by providing them with opportunities to further enhance their knowledge and skills in one of five priority areas: Literacy and Numeracy, English, Mathematics, Science and Australian History.

Participants in the programme will be high performing teachers, currently working in government and non-government schools, who will also have the capacity to act as leaders of change in their schools. They will play a role in supporting the professional learning of their colleagues in the area of their expertise upon completion of the programme.

The 10 day residential courses, funded by the Australian Government, will be held around Australia during the school break in January 2008. In addition to travel and accommodation expenses, there will be a $5,000 taxable bonus paid to teachers on completion of a course in recognition of their participation, expertise and further experience.

The Summer School providers will be selected through a procurement process. Courses will be developed drawing on evidence-based research into best practice teaching methods, guided by advanced teaching standards and in consultation with professional bodies and other experts. Details of courses and locations will become available on the Department’s webpage at [www.dest.gov.au](http://www.dest.gov.au) after the tender process is complete.

An application package is being developed with specific criteria that a teacher will need to address and will indicate the number of nominations that a school leader can support. Specific details about the nomination and selection process will be sent to you shortly and will be available on the DEST website.

I would appreciate you informing your teaching staff about this exciting new opportunity for professional learning by passing on the enclosed open letter I have written to them.

Yours sincerely

Julie Bishop MP
Dear Teacher

**Australian Government Summer Schools for Teachers**

Teachers are a precious national resource and the teaching profession in Australia deserves greater recognition and reward.

In recognition of the positive difference teachers make to their students’ lives and school communities, the Australian Government announced in the 2007-08 Budget that it would invest $101.7 million over 4 years to establish Summer Schools for Teachers.

This new programme will support the work of teachers by providing exciting opportunities for quality professional learning. It will recognise and reward up to 4,000 of Australia’s best teachers to further enhance their knowledge and skills in one of five priority areas: Literacy and Numeracy, English, Mathematics, Science and Australian History.

The 10 day residential courses funded by the Australian Government will be held in locations around Australia during the school break in January 2008. In addition to travel and accommodation expenses, there will be a $5,000 taxable bonus paid to teachers who complete a course in recognition of their participation, expertise and further experience.

Successful applicants will be high performing teachers, currently working in government and non-government schools, who have the capacity to act as leaders of change in their schools. Specific details about the nomination and selection process will be sent to your school shortly and will also be available on the DEST website at [www.dest.gov.au](http://www.dest.gov.au).

The courses at the summer schools will be developed around evidence-based research into best practice teaching methods, guided by advanced teaching standards and in consultation with professional bodies and other experts. Details of courses and locations will also be available on the DEST website once the summer school providers have been selected.

An application package is being developed with specified selection criteria. Applicants will need the support of their school to proceed with an application and the final selection of teachers will be made by the Australian Government.

I encourage you to consider this exciting opportunity for quality professional learning.

Yours sincerely

Julie Bishop MP