



Agriculture in Education- Primezone Partner Schools

Overview

The Federal Department of Education has partnered with the Primary Industries Education Foundation to implement the program 'Agriculture in Education'. One of the key elements of this program is the appointment of 13 'Primezone Partner Schools' (2 in WA, SA, Vic, NSW, Qld and 1 in each of ACT and the NT) to operate as centres of excellence to support Food and Fibre Education broadly and the Agriculture in Education program specifically.

(NOTE: Hagley Farm School in Tasmania has been directly selected as a 'pilot school' for 2015. It is intended that a new Tasmanian school will be appointed for the 2016 school year).

PIEF is calling for expressions of interest from schools and their communities to be part of this trial of Primezone Partner schools through an Expression of Interest program. Details of obligations and selection criteria are outlined below.

In addition to the selection criteria, final decisions will be made to ensure there is an equitable spread of schools from urban/regional/rural locations as well as from primary and secondary schools.

Expressions of interest will open on Friday the 31st of October and close on Friday the 21st of November 2014. Schools will be appointed 'Primezone Partner Schools' for the duration of the 2015 school year.

Obligations

Successful schools will operate to explore best practice in embedding Food and Fibre education via a cross-curricula approach throughout their schools curriculum. Successful schools will be focussed on supporting resources, professional learning and innovative ways of connecting with like schools within Australia. It is an expectation that Primezone Partner schools will involve other schools within their cluster or community as part of the project.

As part of the partnership, Primezone Partner Schools will receive \$10,000 in funding to support the programs outcomes. It is up to the discretion of each school to determine how this will be spent, although schools will remain accountable for the acquittal of all monies.

Specifically, Primezone Partner Schools will be supported to;

- Trial a number (approximately 4-6) of new units of inquiry developed by PIEF and provide written and video feedback on such units.

- Produce at least one unit of inquiry aligned to the Australian Curriculum. The precise year level and learning area will be negotiated between the school and PIEF.
- Host between 4-6 professional learning session for teachers in their cluster or community to support teacher understanding of Food and Fibre education in those schools.
- Present the outcomes of their involvement at a state or national education conference (e.g. CONASTA, GTAV, NAAE national conference etc).

Selection Criteria

Interested schools are encouraged to apply by addressing the following selection criteria in word format. A limit of 500 words per criteria is strongly encouraged. Schools may also include photos, videos and web links as supporting evidence.

- SC 1: Demonstrated commitment to Food and Fibre education.
- SC 2: Demonstrated commitment and experience in resource development and professional learning.
- SC 3: Demonstrated commitment to operating within a 'cluster' (or similar) and/or partnership structure.
- SC 4: Other factors determined by the school to be considered relevant.

EOIs must include an endorsement form their schools principal and community representative (e.g. Chair of School Council).

A panel comprising of PIEF, the National Association of Agriculture Educators and the National Farmers Federation will make the final decisions.

The selection period will open on Friday the 31st of October and close on Friday the 21st of November.

Program Inquires and Completed EOI's are to be emailed to Ben Stockwin at ceo@primaryindustrieseducation.com.au by close of business on Friday the 21st of November 2014.

For further information please email Ben Stockwin at the above address for further details.