

Media Release

Teaching Australia
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP LIMITED

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Teachers learn from the future

Teaching Australia today released a scenario book *Teaching for Uncertain Futures*, about possible futures for teaching in Australia through to the year 2030.

Teaching for Uncertain Futures is the work of teachers and principals from around Australia who were involved in a national scenario building project, the Open Book Scenarios, supported by Teaching Australia in partnership with the Neville Freeman Agency. The central question of the project was “What will the Australian teaching profession have to do to be successful in 2030?”

“It is a truism that today’s world is complex and uncertain,” Fran Hinton, Teaching Australia Chief Executive said. “Scenario building provides an exciting tool that schools can use to step away from the here and now, see the future in different ways and consider quality teaching in terms of future needs.”

As Oliver Freeman, Director of the Neville Freeman Agency explained, “Scenario-building doesn’t set out to predict the future, but to identify the significant factors that affect the way the future will unfold. The idea is to prompt people to think differently about how they work and to take broader approaches to planning.”

The Open Book scenario builders created four quite different alternate worlds for 2030. They found that important aspects of teaching and the teacher’s role – optimism and commitment, motivating students, skilled use of technologies, close community partnerships and collegiality, among others - remain constant across quite different imagined futures.

Teaching for Uncertain futures provides a catalyst for schools to plan and reflect on how they can best prepare students for the future. It is a great starting point to heighten awareness of future influences and to explore ways in which the teaching profession can maximise the opportunities of the future, for students and for the nation. “Schools might be interested in using the book in the context of the Australia 2020 Summit in April,” Fran Hinton suggested.

Teaching Australia will build on the Open Book Scenarios initiative by supporting professional learning opportunities and activities for schools and school communities.

Teaching for Uncertain Futures is available on request from Teaching Australia, email info@teachingaustralia.edu.au

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