



## **Update on institute of Sathya Sai Education**

At the ISSE we are very proud of the level of awareness, the depth of dedication and the broadness of view of our alumni and the faculty of the ISSE. We have personally witnessed the growth of consciousness and dedication in every single individual who has tried to go deeply into Baba's teachings in the courses at the ISSE, based as they are on a full understanding of the global issues and the power of Baba's teachings in transforming human consciousness. Many of the alumni will be presenting the papers on their special interests and it is both very pleasing and eye opening to see how far we have come in taking the vision of Sai further along the road to a prosperous future in Australia. But this is just the beginning, more is to come!!

All what you see happening here is happening everywhere. There are ISSEs and Sai Schools in so many places. Global prosperity, not global destruction is my vision. I envisage a vital role of ISSE, proactive individuals, alumni of ISSE and children that get SSE in Sai Centres and those who get SSEHV in their schools. We have now research that children going through SSE do just as good as children going through the Sai School. The impact starts with the individual who influences the home, then the nation and ultimately the world. Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in character. With harmony in the home it leads to order in the nation, what results in peace and prosperity in the world.

The Institute of Sathya Sai Education has a number of functions. Not all the Institutes undertake such a variety of functions as we do in Australia. Here we have been fortunate in the quality of the volunteers we have in the Faculty and this has enabled us to go into diverse fields of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. A big thank you to the volunteers at the ISSE, the students and the alumni!

For those not familiar with the structure, the Institute in Australia has a central location in Canberra. This Sathya Sai School here in Murwillumbah is a part of the ISSE, as is the U Turn Training School in Gympie, headed by Doug Bettens. We are in the process of developing hubs of the ISSE in several states and Channa will talk on the activities in the Melbourne hub. Similar hubs are being developed in Sydney and in Perth and the Sai School here is of course one of these hubs.

The primary responsibility of the Institute is to oversee the Sai School in all its aspects and to design training programs in Human Values for the teachers and parents in the Sai School, and develop material for the Sai School children. In this respect there is very close collaboration between the Principal and the ISSE Director

and the staff of ISSE. The ISSE is represented at the School by Deputy Director Bob Molloy. The ISSE manages the Sai School through its Board of Governors made up of myself, Neville Fredericks and Channa. I congratulate the Sathya Sai Organisation on its support and commitment to the Sai School and it should be kept in mind that it takes 20+ years to fully establish a school!

There are several other functions of the ISSE. These include the running of various courses, including the Introductory, Intermediate and the Diploma Courses and the Advanced Diploma by research. The Australian ISSE is also responsible for the training of the SSE teachers. The National Education Coordinator is an ex officio member of the faculty of the ISSE.

The Institute trains the teachers in the state schools in the pedagogy of Sathya Sai Education and develops human values lessons and other material for the mainstream state schools for use by the teachers. Such material has been used over the years in many schools around the country. Shaninee will describe her experience in her cluster of schools.

In Australia there are several initiatives in SSEHV and these will be described by many SSEHV institute faculty members and alumni during this Conference in their papers and in workshops. E.g. Arti from Melbourne and also Selvanie and Krish Naidoo from Newcastle. In the past the ISSE has had collaboration with Australian universities in awarding the Diploma and Advanced Diploma. But the universities have proved to be commercial enterprises and the collaboration is expensive for our students. More recently we have been preparing ourselves for an independently accredited RTO status. But this is an onerous task, We have been the recipients of an award from the Queensland Government for the training in Queensland of 10 students with Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and this we will commence in the near future with the collaboration of an RTO.

In Australia we are very fortunate. We have more than 200 persons who have completed their Diploma studies and of these over 40 have gone on to undertake formal qualification through the Canberra Institute of Technology of Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Another 10 will undertake this training in Perth while, as mentioned, 10 will go through this training in Queensland. The Certificate IV Course in Training and Development is a fairly rigorous program but a lot of the Diploma holders were given recognition of their prior learning through the Diploma course and Advanced Diploma courses.

We feel proud as there is no other ISSE in the world which has so many well qualified trainers. The need for good quality trainers is grounded in the fact that both ISSEA and the Sai Organisation are essentially training organizations. In the Sai Organisation there are educational programs for the children, adolescents, young adults and for the adult devotees and the ISSEA is essentially a training Institution. Inevitably it is the quality of our trainers that will determine the quality of our programs and in this regard we want to be the very best. Indeed we feel proud also that our trainers are trained in the state of the art educational technology and we expect high quality work from them, both in the ISSEA and in the Sai Organisation.

Following the completion of the Training and Assessment Course some of the trainers in Canberra and in Sydney, and also in the Melbourne hub of the ISSEA were given specific tasks to deepen their understanding of the material they had learned. This gave them hands-on experience of applying their learning to the context of the ISSEA training. This was an interesting learning experience for most of the trainers, particularly as their understanding was probed by requiring them to submit their assignments to scrutiny and feedback. This was as enriching as the course itself!

To enhance the level of understanding further and to increase the capacity and skills for training and assessment, we have held an intensive follow up weekend Workshop in Canberra with those who could attend. The participants came from Victoria, NSW, ACT and from the Sai School. These participants are now getting ahead with further training locally by working with each other using a draft Trainer Guide developed by ISSEA.

The ISSE is looking into the feasibility of planning further follow up Trainer workshops in Canberra. At present the ISSE is running a pilot Introductory Course in Canberra, is to run Certificate IV in Training and Assessment in Brisbane and Perth in the near future in collaboration with an RTO, and thus gain hands on experience in the delivery of this type of course material contextualized to SSE and SSEHV in preparation for our own application for RTO status. It is planned that with the material developed from these courses the Introductory and Intermediate course will be formally launched in the states where we have fully trained trainers.

The ISSEA is committed to steadily strengthen and build capacity locally in all the hubs in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Murwillumbah. In the delivery of the Introductory and the Intermediate courses the hubs will conduct their activities under the supervision of the ISSEA in Canberra. Material for these courses will be standardized and given from the ISSEA in Canberra; however the hubs will be expected to contribute to enhance the quality of the teaching material on an ongoing basis.

#### Future

- more and more work will focus on the hubs with the ISSEA having a supervisory role

#### Challenges

- to motivate more people to become 'values activists'
- availability
- time poverty
- more grey power – come and settle in Canberra

Transformation is at the heart of all activity – nothing in life has been more rewarding!

There is an open invitation to one and all – release your creative energy in order to change the world!