Support for new educators

By Natalie Blewitt
Growth Team coordinator

Commencing your teaching career can be very challenging. Even after a few years in the classroom, you may still be trying to find your way. Remember though, there are several places and people you can go to for support, information and advice.

The SSTUWA offers several areas where you can access additional information, advice and support.

As we always say, it's better to be part of a school than to try to swim alone.

Member Assist

Three full-time Member Assist staff are supported by a team of organisers offering prompt and professional union advice to members.

They are just a phone call or email away, providing information when you need it. The team can be contacted via email: memberassist@sstuwa.org.au or by phone: (08) 9210 6060/1800 106 683.

No question is too small to ask. Even if you want to clarify information you have heard, get in touch with the team.

The SSTUWA Growth Team

The Growth Team has all the information and support you need to make it through those difficult early years of your career.

The team (see picture right) also attends graduate modules and visits schools, so keep an eye out for them. They can be contacted at neweducator@sstuwa.org.au or you can connect with them on Facebook.

Our New Educator Network offers an environment where you can talk to people who have been through, or are having, the same experiences as you.

Education and Training Centre

Perhaps some additional professional development will assist you and support your needs. After all, having the right information and knowledge places you in a better position.

All courses on offer through the ETC are developed and delivered by highly-skilled, passionate and experienced educators.

You will always find relevant, collaborative and empowering learning opportunities on offer through the ETC. Industrial, professional, online learning or conferences, there really is something on offer for everyone.

You can find additional information about what is available by visiting sstuwa.org.au/training

Remember, all members are eligible for five days of paid leave per year to attend Trade Union Training (TUT).

Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program, PeopleSense, provides confidential counselling services for employees.

These services can be accessed for personal or work-related issues and are designed to provide short-term psychological assistance for employees and their immediate family in need.

Department of Education employees can access up to six sessions each year, all of which are confidential and free of charge.

Further information about PeopleSense can be found by visiting peoplesense.com.au or by phoning 1300 307 912.

In-Class Coaching Program

The DoE also provide assistance to new educators through their In-Class Coaching Program.

After attending module one graduates may engage with a trained graduate teacher coach for one semester of individualised support (if in your first or second year of teaching).

The support of a coach is part of the entitlements for graduate teachers and is offered at no cost to schools.

Coaches engage graduates in conversations aimed at maximising professional growth.

These experienced teachers provide targeted support, prompt deep reflection and challenge graduates to develop and refine their classroom practice.

This coaching program is confidential and non-evaluative.

Additional information can be found on IKON by searching for “In-Class Coaching Program”.

You can submit an online request form and requests for Semester 2 close at 4.30pm on Friday 4 June (Week 7, Term 2).

You can also email the ICCP Program Coordinator at InClassCoachingProgram@ education.wa.edu.au or phone 0491 218 668.

And remember, there is no shame in reaching out for help, talking to someone outside your usual support network of close family and friends, seeking advice from a trusted professional or having a phone conversation with someone in the know.

Authorised by Sally Dennis, General Secretary, The State School Teachers' Union of W.A.
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