

FAPSA PHILOSOTHON PROJECT

Proudly supported by Templeton Religion Trust.



The Federation of Australasian Philosophy in Schools Associations (FAPSA) is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a substantial grant from the Templeton Religion Trust to fund a philosophy in schools project from September 2017 to August 2020. The Project will further develop Philosothon in Australasia by growing existing Philosothons and supporting the establishment of new ones, particularly in remote schools and at schools catering for students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

The Philosothon Project was conceived by Mr Matthew Wills, the Head of Philosophy, Values and Religion at Hale School in Western Australia. A Philosothon is a competition that sees students engaging in a Community of Inquiry, seeking to investigate a complex ethical or philosophical problem in a collaborative manner. Philosothons promote critical and creative thinking and collaboration skills.

The Philosothon Project Goals:

New Philosothons: Subsidies are available for schools to help cover the costs associated with starting up their own local Philosothon involving other schools in their area. Priority will be given to schools catering for students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and regional areas. New Philosothons will be established in regions that do not yet have any; including the ACT, New Zealand, the Northern Territory, Singapore, South Australia, and Tasmania.

Travel Subsidies: Subsidies will be provided to enable students/staff from remote locations to travel and participate in National Philosothons.

Judges and Community of Inquiry Facilitators recruited and trained up: Teacher training and professional development will be organised to allow post-graduate university students in philosophy and primary and secondary school philosophy teachers to be trained in the Community of Inquiry pedagogy which, in turn, enables them to act as Judges and Facilitators in Philosothons.

A monetary prize will be awarded to the winning schools in the annual Australasian Philosothon.

Resource Development: Teachers and academics will be invited to develop age appropriate resources to be used as stimulus material for Philosothons. A website will be developed to house these resources and enable access for all participants.

Research and Project evaluation: Research will be conducted and reported on the benefits and findings of the Philosothon Project and published in reputable scholarly and open access publications such as peer-reviewed journals as well as Philosophy magazines.

FAPSA is an umbrella organisation which seeks to enrich and expand philosophy education in primary and secondary schools in Australasia. It supports the interests of its nine affiliated Associations through professional development and advocacy initiatives, has an official open access journal, *Journal of Philosophy in Schools*, and holds a biennial conference.

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