

# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION Inc.

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Patron-in-Chief  
Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO  
Governor - General of the Commonwealth of Australia

## ACHRE AGM 4 NOVEMBER 2013 President's Report

In 2013 ACHRE has celebrated the 10th anniversary of its establishment. 2013 was a very good year for ACHRE – much was achieved and ACHRE is in a stronger position to focus on our tasks in 2014.

Below is a short summary of key activities undertaken at the national level. Additional reports will be provided by the office holders and presidents of state/territory councils.

### **Symposia, conferences and seminars**

The President, Dr Sev Ozdowski, represented ACHRE at the Conference on "Human Rights and Democracy in Action - Looking Ahead: The Impact of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education" held in Strasbourg, 29 - 30 November 2012

### **ACHRE organised:**

- Third International Human Rights Education Conference , 6-10 December 2012.  
ACHRE sponsored the organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IHRE Conference held at the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland, 6-10 December 2012. The ACHRE President, delivered a keynote address. Other ACHRE committee members attended: Dr Nina Burridge and Mr Vincenzo Andreacchio.
- Seminar Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education, Sydney 25 February 2013  
ACHRE held jointly with the Australian Human Rights Commission a very successful seminar event screening a film entitled Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education. Approximately 100 people attended the event with a lot of enthusiasm for future events on human rights education topics. ACHRE President and Ms Tatiana Lozano, Executive Member attended the evening.
- Public Forum on Indigenous Youth Self Harm: People, Place & Politics 22 October 2013

NT Council for Human Rights Education, jointly with the Charles Darwin University School of Law, together with the Miriam Rose Foundation presented a public Forum on

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Indigenous Youth Self Harm: People, Place & Politics on 22nd October 2013. The speakers were Father Frank Brennan SJ, AO (ACU) and Professor Ernest Hunter (UQ)

- National Human Rights Conciliation, Legal & Education Officers Conference 24-25 October 2013

ACHRE agreed to assist ACT Human Rights Commission in the organisation of a National Human Rights Conciliation, Legal & Education Officers Conference in Canberra on 24-25 October 2013. ACHRE President delivered a paper '*Developments in Human Rights Education internationally and Locally.*'

- The Fourth International Human Rights Education Conference: Global Convergence and Local Practice 22 - 26 November 2013

ACHRE is proud to sponsor The Fourth International Human Rights Education Conference: *Global Convergence and Local Practice* which will be held from 22 to 26 November 2013. The Conference is hosted by the Chang Fo-Chuan Center for the Study of Human Rights, Soochow University, Taipei.

- Seminar will be held at Curtin University 10 December 2013

The Centre of Human Rights Education (CHRE) at Curtin University is planning its 10th anniversary celebrations by holding a seminar on Human Rights Day 2013. The CHRE was established thanks to ACHRE being able to secure significant philanthropic funding from Dr Haruhisa Handa, President, Toshu Fukami International Shinto Foundation of Tokyo, Japan. The seminar organised by ACHRE Deputy President Dr Lynda-ann Blanchard will focus on national-regional human rights education issues. Rev. Ela Ghandi from South Africa has been invited to deliver a keynote address.

### **New teaching tools**

- A highlight this year has been the successful creation by ACHRE Deputy President Pera Wells of a program of Model Global Parliaments in which university students learn about international human rights issues, formulate resolutions and then debate and negotiate with each other on the issues. A Canberra event was held in the House of Representatives in Old Parliament House in July, and adopted motions on various human rights issues, including trafficking in persons and 'gendercide'. (see [modelglobalparliament.org](http://modelglobalparliament.org))
- In close consultation with Chander Khera, our Canberra colleague, we have been talking to the staff in the ACT Human Rights Office. They have now requested ACHRE to convene a Model Global Parliament on the theme of human rights for the celebration of their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July 2014.

### **Key Government Consultations:**

- UN Security Council Taskforce Civil Society Consultation 15 May 2013

DFAT in Canberra invited ACHRE to attend a consultation on Australia and the UN Security Council. Ms Pera Wells, ACHRE Vice President has attended. The meeting involved an interactive discussion on Australia's term on the Council, including discussion of Australia's priorities and roles on the Council as well as the Council's action to date and upcoming work on key country situations and thematic issues.

- 10th Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue Briefing, 30 May 2013  
Attended by Mr Chander Khera, Member of ACHRE Management Committee.
- the Annual ACT Race Relations Roundtable on 25 September 2013  
The Roundtable was organised by the ACT Human Rights Commission and attended by Ms Pera Wells, ACHRE Vice President and Mr Chander Khera, Member of ACHRE Management Committee
- the Australia-Vietnam Dialogue Debrief on 26 September 2013  
The debrief was organised by DFAT in Canberra and attended by Mr Chander Khera, Member of ACHRE Management Committee.

### **Successful Application for Grants:**

ACHRE did not secure a Federal government grant in 2013

### **Submissions:**

President of ACHRE has made a submission to the Prime Minister's Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers on 16 July 2012.

### **Key Correspondence**

- Letter of 18 September to Hon Julie Owen MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs in support of the [Third Phase of the UN World Programme on Human Rights Education](#)
- Post federal election congratulatory letters to Prime Minister Hon Tony Abbott and new Abbott Ministry, in particular Education Minister Christopher Pyne, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Attorney General Senator George Brandis QC.
- In June 2013 the Federal Attorney General wrote to ACHRE President Dr Ozdowski to congratulate ACHRE on reaching ten years of raising awareness about human rights and the importance of human rights education.

### **ACHRE Website**

The ACHRE website was significantly upgraded and it is up to date. See: [www.  
http://humanrightseducationaustralia.com](http://humanrightseducationaustralia.com)

### **Other Matters**

- The Human Rights Education in Schools [launched](#) on 22 August 2013  
Assoc. Prof Nina Burridge, ACHRE Executive Member, published an important research report on the Human Rights Education in Schools
- 3rd Annual Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Conference, Melbourne, 9 -10 May 2013,  
This conference organised to support integration of Australians of all backgrounds was addressed by Dr Ozdowski, ACHRE President.

- Anti-racism Agreement with AHRE

ACHRE has signed in September 2013 a formal agreement with the Australian Human Rights Commission to support the Commission's 'RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME.' Campaign.

- ACHRE issued a Media Release

to congratulate on their election the Prime Minister Tony Abbott and new Abbott Ministry, in particular Education Minister Christopher Pyne, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Attorney General Senator George Brandis QC and called for successful cooperation with the new government toward the advancement of human rights education both domestically and internationally.

- The South Australian Council for Human Rights Education

was established in June 2013 and undertook a range of activities and secured an establishment grant. Mr Vincenzo Andreacchio is its President.

- Ugandan Coalition for Human Rights Education

ACHRE sponsored establishment of Ugandan Coalition for Human Rights Education website and is assisting with the organisation of a seminar on 5 November 2013.

### **ACHRE Secretariat & Administrative Matters**

Detailed reports will be tabled at the meeting by ACHRE Executive Officer Mr Vincenzo Andreacchio, ACHRE Treasurer Assoc. Professor Joseph Zajda and by our Public Officer Dr Madeleine Laming.

### **State Branches**

Presidents of state branches and affiliated organisations will table their reports at the meeting

My best thank you to the ACHRE Management Committee for your support and for ensuring that ACHRE continues to achieve making substantial contributions to HRE in Australia and elsewhere.

Last but not least, warm congratulations to ACHRE Treasurer Prof Zajda on becoming a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and to a member of ACHRE Executive A/Professor Nina Burridge on her promotion to the position of Assoc. Professor at UTS.



Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM  
ACHRE President  
4 November 2014