



# *An 'Outsider's' Perspective on Gifted Education in Australia*

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# *Remembering Sir Harold Wyndham*

- ✧ Director General of the New South Wales Education Department 1952-1968, but worked in the Department of Education from 1925-1968
- ✧ Was first public educationist in Australia to be knighted (1968)
- ✧ Was considered a 'progressive' educationist, advocating that teaching be considered a 'science', that schools provide medical, psychological, and counselling support to students, that school life for students should be child-centred in providing happy yet profitable learning experiences





# *Remembering Sir Harold Wyndham*

- ✧ Was proponent of ability grouping of students and was a part of the rise of Opportunity Classes and Selective High Schools in New South Wales
- ✧ Helped to shape current system of comprehensive and HSC-oriented high schools in NSW (Wyndham Report of 1967)
- ✧ Much of what the tri-partite system of schools is today can be traced back to his philosophy and work.
- ✧ One of his legacies has perhaps strengthened the system, despite his vocal actions and arguments against it --federal funding of religious-affiliated and independent schools in Australia



# *A Summary of This Outsider's Experiences With Australian Schools*

- ✧ Before coming to GERRIC full-time in 2005, I made yearly 2+ week trips here:
  - ✧ COGE training (1994 - 2005)
  - ✧ Research seminars to School of Education faculty and postgraduate students at UNSW
  - ✧ Parent seminars through GERRIC student programs
  - ✧ ARC Linkage Curriculum Development project with two NSW high schools - lived at each school for a period of 3 months working with teachers in these schools on a daily basis. ("Artist in Residence" project in education perhaps?)





# *A Summary of This Outsider's Experiences With Australian Schools*

## ✧ 2005-2007

✧ Talking with parents (individually and in groups) - parents of gifted children, primarily

- ✧ DEST regional & remote workshops (10) - 900
- ✧ Seminars through GERRIC - 1,300
- ✧ GERRIC workshops for parent groups - 450
- ✧ Parents at conferences - 300
- ✧ Email conversations within Australia - 75
- ✧ Internet chat forum - 100



# *A Summary of This Outsider's Experiences With Australian Schools*

## ✧ 2005-2007

### ✧ Talking with teachers

#### ✧ In Gifted Education settings:

✧ COGE - 800

✧ School workshops - 930

✧ In Conferences - 1,290

#### ✧ In Regular Education settings

✧ In-services - 1,625

✧ School observations (practicum supervisions) - 25

✧ Classroom observations - 32





# *A Summary of This Outsider's Experiences With Australian Schools*

## ✧ 2005-2007

### ✧ Speaking to and with K-12 students (gifted)

- ✧ Ceremonies - 390

- ✧ Research - 4,350 + 30 (in-depth)

- ✧ Evaluations - 4

### ✧ Relating to and with K-12 students (regular)

- ✧ Research - 900