

EH&S Issues

The ternal **H**ealth and **S**afety of our students is our greatest priority

Power cords can be a hazard in the school environment. Not only do plugs have to be kept in good repair, but cords that snake their way across classrooms, attached to multiple power boards like neuronal networks, are quickly dealt with by OH&S officers. Equipment is checked regularly. Faulty items are discarded and replaced. Electrical currents are not something with which we take chances. Our students' lives are too precious and we have a duty of care while they are at school. Yet, in spite of the dangers, a good source of power is essential to the smooth operation of a school. Without it, lights go off, computers shut down, canteen food spoils, and teachers feel handicapped. If the power supply is cut off, top priority is given to restoring it immediately.

I wonder if the same can be said for the spiritual power supply to our schools. What consideration do we give to maintaining a constant supply of spiritual

power to ourselves and our students? Take a few seconds to reflect on this spiritual power checklist:

- Teachers make it a priority to keep the power flowing in their own lives by setting aside time each day to connect with God in a meaningful way.
- Students' spiritual development is a regular item on staff meeting agendas.
- Staff have devotional times together and support students and their families with prayers.
- The school has a parent prayer support group that prays for the staff and students on a regular basis.
- Bible/chapel classes are relevant, engaging, participatory and representative of a wide range of activities.
- Students have time to share their connection with God both formally and informally.
- Time is made available for students to pray in groups or alone.
- Space is made available for students and staff to pray in groups or alone.
- Opportunities are provided for students to have quiet time to reflect on God's power in their lives.

When issues disrupt the spiritual power supply to our schools, how quickly do we identify them, and make it a priority to reconnect our students to the Source of spiritual power? While our concern for OH&S issues is important, our concern for the Eternal Health and Safety of our students is even more important. It is our core business. **TEACH**

EH&S issues are a joint initiative between the Adventist Schools Australia Curriculum Unit and Avondale College.



["Teaching is...": Lanelle Cobbin]