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# Presentation of findings for South Australian Catholic Education schools - a synthesis for the Catholic Education Centre of South Australia - How are primary education health and physical education (HPE) teachers best prepared?

Lynch, TJ

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Monash University

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## Presentation of Findings

### South Australia Catholic Education schools – synthesis

#### South Australian Catholic Education schools (total)

Total returned surveys	<b>18</b>
Total South Australian Catholic Education schools	<b>18</b>
% within state	<b>100.0%</b>

**1. Which teachers are responsible for HPE in your school (eg. Classroom, specialist HPE, outsourced)?**

Specialist HPE/PE & classroom teachers	14	(77.8%)
Specialist HPE/PE	2	(11.0%)
Specialist HPE/PE & Specialist HPE Coordinator	1	(5.6%)
Classroom teacher	1	(5.6%)

**2. If HPE is outsourced please give details of what is outsourced and background/qualifications of the people who take the classes?**

No details/Not Applicable	18	(100.0%)
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**3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?**

Yes	13	(72.2%)
No	5	(27.8%)

*Summary of comments explaining why:*

The comments supporting HPE specialists in primary schools were many with 72.2% of South Australian Catholic Education principals preferring to have a HPE/PE specialist teacher in their school. Principals who did not prefer to have a specialist HPE teacher were from the smaller sized schools surveyed (four principals from medium sized primary schools and one from a large).

Comments suggested that quality was provided by HPE/PE specialist teachers through expertise, knowledge of the subject, priority of the learning area and passion, skill development and motivation. Principals believed these qualities

enabled a developmentally appropriate and consistent program throughout the whole school. Also, it was mentioned that most classroom teachers' are not specialists in this field and having a HPE/PE specialist is valued by school communities. Many HPE specialists are responsible for the physical education strand only with the class teacher being responsible for Health Education.

**4. If your school does have a HPE specialist teacher, do they have specific HPE qualifications**

Yes	13	(72.2%)
No	4	(22.2%)
No details/Not Applicable	1	(5.6%)

**5. On average how much time of PE (lesson) engagement do students in your school receive weekly?**

None	0	
Half an hour	0	
1 hour	6	(33.3%)
2 hours	10	(55.6%)
3 hours or more	2	(11.1%)

**6. When employing staff, do you look at the university certificate/ testamur of potential staff?**

Yes	12	(66.7%)
No	6	(33.3%)

**7. When employing teachers do you peruse university transcripts of results?**

Yes	5	(27.8%)
No	13	(72.2%)

**8. As a Principal, would a course that qualifies teachers to be generalist classroom teachers and HPE specialists be of value?**

No	0	
Maybe	2	(11.1%)
Probably	6	(33.3%)
Yes	10	(55.6%)

**9. Would a testamur/ certificate that read “Bachelor of Primary Education (Health and Physical Education)” assist you with the employment of staff?**

No	2	(11.1%)
Maybe	5	(27.8%)
Probably	5	(27.8%)
Yes	6	(33.3%)

**10. What are the key attributes of a good HPE teacher?**

HPE curriculum knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	15 (mentions)
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	10
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	8
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	7
Quality relationships	7
Role model for healthy living	6
Athletic/ fitness/ stamina/ active/ skill level	6
Is always positive	6
Engaging & fun for students	4
Rapport /communication and management skills	4
Liases well with other staff, schools & parents (network)	3
Innovative (resourceful and creative)	3
Introduce/knowledge a variety of physical activities/skills	3
Contemporary	2
Committed	1
Team player/ team work/collaboration	1
Advocate of & teaches healthy behaviours (holistic)	1
Leadership	1
Energy	1
Develop children’s team work skills	1
Competitive/ non-competitive balance	1
Ability to integrate Health & PE	1
Inspirational/ motivating	1

Hard worker/ drive	1
Reflective	1
Skills based	1
Student wellbeing is at centre	1

**11. Are there any other details you would like to add on the issue of quality HPE experiences for children in schools?**

Fundamental Motor Skills activities and assessment, Play with Purpose activities, all classroom teachers need to do it.

In my years as a teacher/ Principal I have not come across a H & PE teacher that teachers both health & PE. They only teach PE and the health aspect is left to the classroom teacher.

Promotion of healthy, active lifestyles is very important to promote in schools.

I believe all primary classroom teachers should have the ability to teach HPE, an overall general knowledge of HPE is a great asset.

Our system does little to support quality curriculum development in HPE. What we do is driven by us.

Children need to be taught PE in a safe manner, lots of variety, development.

Fitness and health begins at home, the school can only offer a small program, parents are the full time role models.

Too many classroom teachers lack confidence/ drive to deliver a really good PE curriculum. A "linked" Health prog. with the PE component would be great.

No details/not applicable	10	(55.6%)
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**Small sized schools (less than 100 children) South Australia****Catholic Education**

- **0 returned surveys**

Total returned surveys	<b>0</b>
Total South Australian Catholic Education schools	<b>18</b>
% within state	<b>0%</b>

**Medium sized schools (100 – 300 children) South Australia**

**Catholic Education**

**- 9 returned surveys**

Total returned surveys	<b>9</b>
Total South Australian Catholic Education schools	<b>18</b>
% within state	<b>50.0%</b>

**1. Which teachers are responsible for HPE in your school (eg. Classroom, specialist HPE, outsourced)?**

Specialist HPE/PE teacher & Classroom	8	(88.9%)
Classroom teacher	1	(11.1%)

**2. If HPE is outsourced please give details of what is outsourced and background/qualifications of the people who take the classes?**

No details/not applicable	9	(100.0%)
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**3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?**

Yes	5	(55.6%)
No	4	(44.4%)

*Comments explaining why:*

Support and provide in-service for classroom teachers.

So that a quality program can be implemented and assessment done on each child.

Greater understanding of movement, more exciting activities, create interest and motivation of students R-5.

Depth of knowledge, passion for role.

Only benefit is that it provides required non-contact teaching time/ Enterprise Agreement.

A PE specialist teacher would ensure continuity of physical education programme throughout the whole school. There would be greater clarity around the sequential development of skills and knowledge.

I don't prefer, but for schools to have specialist HPE teachers is an added bonus, as I believe all primary teachers should be able to teach HPE.

**4. If your school does have a HPE specialist teacher, do they have specific HPE qualifications?**

Yes	5	(55.6%)
No	3	(33.3%)
No details/not applicable	1	(11.1%)

**5. On average how much time of PE (lesson) engagement do students in your school receive weekly?**

None	0	
Half an hour	0	
1 hour	3	(33.3%)
2 hours	4	(44.5%)
3 hours or more	2	(22.2%)

**6. When employing staff, do you look at the university certificate/ testamur of potential staff?**

Yes	6	(66.7%)
No	3	(33.3%)

**7. When employing teachers do you peruse university transcripts of results?**

Yes	4	(44.4%)
No	5	(55.6%)

**8. As a Principal, would a course that qualifies teachers to be generalist classroom teachers and HPE specialists be of value?**

No	0	
Maybe	1	(11.2%)
Probably	4	(44.4%)
Yes	4	(44.4%)



**9. Would a testamur/ certificate that read “Bachelor of Primary Education (Health and Physical Education)” assist you with the employment of staff?**

No	1	(11.1%)
Maybe	3	(33.3%)
Probably	4	(44.5%)
Yes	1	(11.1%)

**10. What are the key attributes of a good HPE teacher?**

Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	6 (mentions)
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	4
Role model for healthy living	4
Athletic/ fitness/ stamina/ active/ skill level	4
HPE curriculum knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	3
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	3
Quality relationships	3
Is always positive	3
Liases well with other staff, schools & parents (network)	3
Engaging & fun for students	2
Innovative (resourceful and creative)	2
Contemporary	2
Rapport /communication and management skills	1
Introduce/knowledge a variety of physical activities/skills	1
Committed	1
Team player/ team work/collaboration	1
Advocate of & teaches healthy behaviours (holistic)	1
Leadership	1
Energy	1
Develop children’s team work skills	1
Competitive/ non-competitive balance	1
Ability to integrate Health & PE	1

**11. Are there any other details you would like to add on the issue of quality HPE experiences for children in schools?**

Fundamental Motor Skills activities and assessment, Play with Purpose activities, all classroom teachers need to do it.

In my years as a teacher/ Principal I have not come across a H & PE teacher that teachers both health & PE. They only teach PE and the health aspect is left to the classroom teacher.

Promotion of healthy, active lifestyles is very important to promote in schools.

I believe all primary classroom teachers should have the ability to teach HPE, an overall general knowledge of HPE is a great asset.

No details/not applicable	5	(60.0%)
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**Large sized schools (300-600 children) South Australia**

**Catholic Education**

**- 5 returned surveys**

Total returned surveys	<b>5</b>
Total South Australian Catholic Education schools	<b>18</b>
% within state	<b>27.8%</b>

**1. Which teachers are responsible for HPE in your school (eg. Classroom, specialist HPE, outsourced)?**

Specialist HPE/PE	1	(20.0%)
Specialist HPE/PE & classroom teachers	4	(80.0%)

**2. If HPE is outsourced please give details of what is outsourced and background/qualifications of the people who take the classes?**

No details/Not Applicable	5	(100.0%)
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**3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?**

Yes	4	(80.0%)
No	1	(20.0%)

*Comments explaining why:*

Most teachers are not specialists in this field so a trained PE teacher will provide a better quality and age appropriate program.

Specialist teachers have the skills and are passionate about this curriculum area.

Specialist HPE bring specialised training and pedagogy – often specialist HPE teachers are passionate on this area and contribute to the whole school community.

**4. If your school does have a HPE specialist teacher, do they have specific HPE qualifications?**

Yes	4	(80.0%)
No	1	(20.0%)

**5. On average how much time of PE (lesson) engagement do students in your school receive weekly?**

None	0	
Half an hour	0	
1 hour	2	(40.0%)
2 hours	3	(60.0%)
3 hours or more	0	
No details/not applicable	0	

**6. When employing staff, do you look at the university certificate/ testamur of potential staff?**

Yes	3	(60.0%)
No	2	(40.0%)

**7. When employing teachers do you peruse university transcripts of results?**

Yes	0	
No	5	(100.0%)

**8. As a Principal, would a course that qualifies teachers to be generalist classroom teachers and HPE specialists be of value?**

No	0	
Maybe	1	(20.0%)
Probably	1	(20.0%)
Yes	3	(60.0%)

**9. Would a testamur/ certificate that read “Bachelor of Primary Education (Health and Physical Education)” assist you with the employment of staff?**

No	0	
Maybe	2	(40.0%)
Probably	0	
Yes	3	(60.0%)

**10. What are the key attributes of a good HPE teacher?**

HPE curriculum knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	7 (mentions)
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	3
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	2
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	2
Introduce/knowledge a variety of physical activities/skills	2
Athletic/ fitness/ stamina/ active/ skill level	2
Is always positive	2
Rapport /communication and management skills	1
Role model for healthy living	1
Engaging & fun for students	1
Quality relationships	1
Innovative (resourceful and creative)	1
Inspirational/ motivating	1
Hard worker/ drive	1
Reflective	1

**11. Are there any other details you would like to add on the issue of quality HPE experiences for children in schools?**

Our system does little to support quality curriculum development in HPE. What we do is driven by us.

Children need to be taught PE in a safe manner, lots of variety, development.

No details/not applicable 3 (60.0%)

**Very large sized schools (600 children and more) South Australia**

**Catholic Education**

**- 4 returned surveys**

Total returned surveys	<b>4</b>
Total South Australian Catholic Education schools	<b>18</b>
% within state	<b>22.2%</b>

**1. Which teachers are responsible for HPE in your school (eg. Classroom, specialist HPE, outsourced)?**

Specialist HPE/PE teacher & Classroom	2	(50.0%)
Specialist HPE/PE	1	(25.0%)
Specialist HPE/PE & Specialist HPE Coordinator	1	(25.0%)

**2. If HPE is outsourced please give details of what is outsourced and background/qualifications of the people who take the classes?**

No details/Not Applicable	4	(100.0%)
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**3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?**

Yes	4	(100.0%)
No	0	

*Comments explaining why:*

PE teachers are specialised – they have the skills and curriculum knowledge to offer a full program. Generally PE teachers are good role models for health and fitness. The expertise the specialists bring to the curriculum benefits the students, and it demonstrates that the school values HPE. They may have a better understanding of children’s stages of physical development as well as better teaching resources to support their programs. Yes! They have high level expertise which is essential for optimising student engagement and achievement.

**4. If your school does have a HPE specialist teacher, do they have specific HPE qualifications?**

Yes	4	(100.0%)
No	0	

**5. On average how much time of PE (lesson) engagement do students in your school receive weekly?**

None	0	
Half an hour	0	
1 hour	1	(25.0%)
2 hours	3	(75.0%)
3 hours or more	0	

**6. When employing staff, do you look at the university certificate/ testamur of potential staff?**

Yes	3	(75.0%)
No	1	(25.0%)

**7. When employing teachers do you peruse university transcripts of results?**

Yes	1	(25.0%)
No	3	(75.0%)

**8. As a Principal, would a course that qualifies teachers to be generalist classroom teachers and HPE specialists be of value?**

No	0	
Maybe	0	
Probably	1	(25.0%)
Yes	3	(75.0%)

**9. Would a testamur/ certificate that read “Bachelor of Primary Education (Health and Physical Education)” assist you with the employment of staff?**

No	1	(25.0%)
Maybe	0	
Probably	1	(25.0%)
Yes	2	(50.0%)

**10. What are the key attributes of a good HPE teacher?**

HPE curriculum knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	5 (mentions)
Quality relationships	3
Rapport /communication and management skills	2
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	2
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	2
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	1
Role model for healthy living	1
Engaging & fun for students	1
Is always positive	1
Skills based	1
Student wellbeing is at centre	1

**11. Are there any other details you would like to add on the issue of quality HPE experiences for children in schools?**

Fitness and health begins at home, the school can only offer a small program, parents are the full time role models.

Too many classroom teachers lack confidence/ drive to deliver a really good PE curriculum. A “linked” Health prog. with the PE component would be great.

No details/not applicable	2	(50.0%)
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