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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**2012 Biennial National Education Forum**  
**Excellence through improvement and innovation**

The Acting Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood, NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli, welcomes the holding of the third Biennial National Education Forum on 2 August 2012. Education Ministers and leading educators will share experiences and advice on how Australian schools are achieving equity and excellence.

This year's forum is based at Sydney's *Telstra Experience Centre* and will be streamed live around the country. With the assistance of Telstra, approximately 450 participants will take part in the forum in centres across Australia. Keynote speakers will present to forum participants from locations as diverse as Paris and Chicago.

The forum will focus on innovative educational reforms, a key goal of the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, which was signed by education Ministers in 2008.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the public, world-leading educators and Ministers to get together to share ideas. We can all learn from each other to make our schools even better," said Minister Piccoli.

The 2012 Biennial Forum features a selection of keynote speakers from around the world. These include Andreas Schleicher, the Deputy Director for Education for the OECD, Professor Geoff Masters Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), Michael Stevenson, the Vice President of Global Education at Cisco and Valerie Hannon, Director of the Innovation Unit.

"We are privileged to have these speakers present to us. I'm sure everyone involved in education will learn a lot from what they have to say," said Minister Piccoli.

In a knowledge economy educators now more than ever are seeking to use new technologies to individualise learning. The interactive forum is an exciting opportunity to experience first-hand the ways in which technology can be used to enhance education.

"The entire format is itself a showcase of the way that technology can be used to innovate teaching and learning practice. Anyone with a digital device can participate in this interactive event," said Minister Piccoli.

Ministers will participate in a Roundtable discussion at which they will present achievements in equity and excellence in their jurisdiction, and will join in Radio National's "Life Matters" program.

The forum also features an "Innovations Marketplace", utilising live presentations and pre-recorded segments to highlight innovation in action from schools and agencies throughout Australia.

Further information regarding the 2012 Biennial Forum, including the program, can be found at: <http://innovation.esa.edu.au>

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