



Requests for financial support from PESA for hosting conferences, symposia and seminars

The Objects of PESA

The objects of PESA are set out in section 3 of the **Rules of the Society**:

- (1) The objects of the Society are-
 - (a) to promote the advancement of, and research and teaching in, the Philosophy of Education;
 - (b) to organise meetings and conferences on topics of interest to Philosophy of Education;
 - (c) to provide a clearinghouse of relevant published information, including a register of members, their qualifications, publications and appointments; and
 - (d) to publish appropriate material related to Philosophy of Education in the Society's journal *Educational Philosophy and Theory* and in other appropriate forms of publication.
- (2) The property and income of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society and no part of that property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects.

Accordingly, in the spirit of (1) (a)-(d), the PESA Executive welcomes requests from members for financial support to host conferences, seminars, symposia, and other events consistent with the objects of the Society.

Guidelines

1. Members seeking financial support for an event must submit a proposal to the Secretary of the Society by 1 May each year. Proposals will be considered at the mid-year Executive meeting (usually held in June or July).
2. The total funds available to support events each year will always be limited. The maximum funding available for any one event is \$5000 (AUD). It is anticipated that in many cases the level of funding will be lower than this.
3. It is recognised that for smaller events (e.g., a seminar by a visiting scholar, organised at relatively short notice), it will not always be practical to work to the deadline specified above. Requests for financial support of up to \$1000 (AUD) will be considered by the Executive at other times of the year on a case by case basis. Members making such requests should provide a clear explanation of the reasons for seeking support outside the usual timeline.
4. Proposals will be considered on their merits, with the objects of the Society in mind. Not all proposals in any year may be able to be supported. The decisions of the Executive will be final and extended correspondence with unsuccessful applicants will not be possible.

5. Proposals must indicate whether funding is also being sought, or has already been obtained, from other sources.
6. A proposal may be submitted on one occasion only. Exceptions may be considered where substantial revisions have been made to a proposal previously submitted but not supported.
7. Requests to support the publication of books or articles arising from the sponsored conference, symposium or seminar may form part of an application.
8. To be considered for support, proposals *must show how an event advances research and/or teaching in philosophy of education*. This may be evident in these ways, among others:
 - The theme of the event and the call for papers or list of topics;
 - The proposed speakers and their areas of expertise;
 - The interest the event is likely to generate among philosophers of education;
 - The links that can be made between matters of policy or practice addressed at the event and work in philosophy of education;
 - The possible contribution of the event to subsequent teaching (including supervision) in philosophy of education;
 - Any proposed publications from the event (e.g., a special issue of *Educational Philosophy and Theory* or an edited book);
 - The wider benefits for PESA as an organisation.
9. A brief report, including full disclosure of how the funds awarded have been spent, should be submitted to the Secretary of the Society within 3 months of the event.

Background

The rationale for supporting conferences, symposia and seminars is set out in the position paper prepared by Professor Peter Roberts and circulated to all members in 2013: 'The Future Development of the Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia as a Research Organisation'. The relevant section is on p. 12 of the paper:

The sponsoring of seminars, invited lectures and symposia

A number of active members of the Society organise regular seminars and symposia within their own institutions, but to date PESA has done relatively little to encourage wider participation in such events. In the years following the disappearance of PESA branches in different centres, the main event for members each year has been the conference. Philosophers of education have much to contribute to public debate on contentious issues in educational policy, and this constitutes one key area where initiative could be taken in organising seminars, invited lectures and symposia. There is also merit, however, in continuing to demonstrate the value of philosophical work through presentations and discussions in other areas. Such initiatives may centre on the work of an influential thinker (the Freire conference at the University of Waikato in November 2012 is a good example), or they could address any number of other topics such as education and the liberal arts, philosophy and indigenous education, literature and education, spirituality and education, philosophical methodologies in education, neuroscience and philosophy of education, and so on. The Society could provide some financial support for such initiatives on a case by case basis, provided the majority of the funding comes from

the host institution. To be affordable and manageable from an organisational point of view, most events of this kind might best be conceived as one-day affairs, reducing or eliminating overnight accommodation costs. In Australia, where the travel distances are often much greater than in New Zealand, such initiatives may have to focus primarily on individual cities or States. Rather than trying to cover costs for attendees, PESA support might better be directed toward the funding of airfares and other expenses for members who serve as speakers at seminars and symposia, although this would depend on the nature of any given event.