

Presentation of Findings

South Australian Government schools – synthesis

South Australian schools (total)

Total returned surveys	37
Total South Australian government schools	37
% within state	100.0%

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

Classroom & HPE specialist	16	(43.3%)
Classroom teachers	9	(24.3%)
Specialist HPE	8	(21.6%)
Classroom and NIT	2	(5.4%)
Classroom and Principal	1	(2.7%)
Teacher (Non Instructional Time - NIT)	1	(2.7%)

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	27	(73.0%)
Footsteps –specialist dance	4	(10.8%)
Specialist clinics on offer (Auskick, netball, cricket)	3	(8.1%)
Gymnastics	3	(8.1%)
Active After School Sport	2	(5.4%)
Qualified teachers – NIT	1	(2.7%)
Swimming/aquatics (DECD trained instructors)	1	(2.7%)

NIT (Non Instructional Time) did not study PE at university but love of PE in my opinion is more important (and their skills as a teacher)

3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?

Yes	27	(77.1%)
No	8	(22.9%)
No details/Not Applicable	2	

Summary of comments explaining why:

Within small schools (less than 100 children) many Principals stated that it was not possible or financially viable to have HPE specialists due to their size and these schools were predominantly in rural, regional or remote locations. Therefore there was a much higher percentage of Principals in small schools who answered 'no' to this question (54.5%).

The comments supporting HPE specialists in primary schools were many and suggested that quality was provided through expertise, knowledge of the subject, priority of the learning area, skill development, motivation, community relations, sport coordination and to enable a developmentally appropriate and consistent program. Also, it was mentioned that some classroom teachers are over 50 years of age and not always physically capable to take HPE classes.

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

Yes	22	(78.6%)
No	6	(21.4%)
No details/Not Applicable	9	

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	7	(18.9%)
2 hours	25	(67.6%)
3 hours or more	5	(13.5%)

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

Yes	21	(60.0%)
No	14	(40.0%)
No details/Not Applicable	2	

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

Yes	5	(13.5%)
No	32	(86.5%)

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

No	1	(2.7%)
Maybe	4	(10.8%)
Probably	8	(21.6%)
Yes	24	(64.9%)

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

No	8	(21.6%)
Maybe	9	(24.3%)
Probably	7	(18.9%)
Yes	13	(35.1%)

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

HPE subject knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	24 (mentions)
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	18
Rapport/ communication and management skills	13
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	11
Introduce a variety of physical activities/ skills	9
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	9
Engage students and fun	8
Role model for healthy living	5
Willing to do extra curricula activities	4
Relationship building	4
Team player/ team work/ collaboration	4
Good teacher/ classroom	3
Safety	3
Willingness to learn	2
Expertise (specialist training in HPE)	2
Motivating	2
Athletic/ fitness/stamina/ active	2
Innovative/ initiative	1
Commitment to school life	1
Involved in sports & high skill level	1
Strong literacy, numeracy & research skills	1
Be involved practically in lessons	1
Leadership	1
Fair	1
Experience in teaching	1

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

Within small schools (less than 100 children) Principals suggested that classroom teachers needed to be able to teach across all learning areas including HPE. Also, physical education (physical activities) is an area that some teachers have difficulties with implementing. Many of these schools are located in rural, regional or remote locations.

Principals of medium sized schools (100-300 children) believed that developmentally appropriate skills implemented through correct pedagogy for maximising participation and enjoyment was pertinent. They viewed HPE as a learning area equally important to any other learning area within the primary school and believed physical activities required mandating. Also, comments included that the HPE program should be developed sequentially throughout the school.

Principals of large schools (300-600 children) emphasised how pertinent it was to have HPE specialists with developmentally appropriate and inclusive pedagogy. One Principal stated that HPE specialists “often have no idea of programming and struggle big time in class settings, which limits their employability. Need to know it is not ‘free play’”. Again, the qualifications and ability of HPE specialists to be good primary classroom teachers was affirmed. They believed more professional development for teachers was necessary. One Principal stated that they preferred to have “strong generalist teachers with a HPE focus”. Another believed HPE specialists training required a “solid background to support and be in behind HPE school programs”. They stressed the need for all schools to have quality HPE as part of children’s experiences. Some Principals stated that more could be done by the government with regards to nutrition and promotion of physical activities and sport programs.

Small sized schools (less than 100 children) South Australia

- 12 returned surveys

Total returned surveys	12
Total SA government schools	37
% within state	32.4%

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

Classroom teachers	5	(41.7%)
Classroom & HPE specialist	3	(25.0%)
Classroom and NIT	2	(16.7%)
Specialist HPE	1	(8.3%)
Classroom and Principal	1	(8.3%)

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	8	(66.7%)
Active After School Sport	2	(16.7%)
Specialist clinics on offer	1	(8.3%)
Footsteps –specialist dance	1	(8.3%)
Auskick & netball	1	(8.3%)
Qualified teachers - NIT	1	(8.3%)

NIT (Non Instructional Time) did not study PE at university but love of PE in my opinion is more important (and their skills as a teacher)

3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?

Yes	5	(45.5%)
No	6	(54.5%)
No details/Not Applicable	1	

Comments explaining why:

Unavailable – budget does not allow this option

Skill development is definitely linked to curriculum with the knowledge of what the older students need to learn

It ensures a focus is maintained on a balanced and engaging curriculum. Creates community partnerships and extends learning.

Not possible as our school is too small

They can concentrate on delivering an R-7 program and overtime they can set challenges for the student’s ability range

To guarantee we do our best for children’s development leading to a healthier and fitter society

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

Yes	4	(80.0%)
No	1	(20.0%)
No details/Not Applicable	7	

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	(16.7%)
2 hours	8	(66.7%)
3 hours or more	2	(16.7%)

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

Yes	6	(54.5%)
No	5	(45.5%)
No details/Not Applicable	1	

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

Yes	2	(16.7%)
No	10	(83.3%)

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

No	1	(8.3%)
Maybe	3	(25.0%)
Probably	2	(16.7%)
Yes	6	(50.0%)

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

No	7	(58.3%)
Maybe	2	(16.7%)
Probably	1	(8.3%)
Yes	2	(16.7%)

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

HPE subject knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	6 (mentions)
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	6
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	5
Engage students	4
Introduce a variety of physical activities/ skills	4
Planning/ assessment and flexibility	3
Rapport/ communication and management skills	3
Role model for healthy living	2
Athletic/ fitness/stamina/ active	1
Fair	1
Expertise (specialist training in HPE)	1
Experience in teaching	1
Team player/ team work/ collaboration	1
Understanding of curriculum (all areas)	1
Willingness to learn	1
Relationship building	1

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

No details/Not Applicable

8

Our school is not large enough to allow us to employ specialist teachers, classroom teachers need to be able to teach everything.

More cross curricular teaching to provide more active learning

I answered no to Question 6 & 7 because we do not employ!

I do think specialist PE teachers are a great asset – most classroom teachers teach PE badly!

Medium sized schools (100 – 300 children) South Australia

- 11 returned surveys

Total returned surveys	11
Total SA government schools	37
% within state	29.7%

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

Classroom teachers	1	(9.1%)
Classroom and Specialist HPE	7	(63.6%)
Specialist HPE teacher	2	(18.2%)
Teacher (Non Instructional Time - NIT)	1	(9.1%)

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	8	(72.7%)
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We have outsourced gymnastics programme (1hr x 10 weeks) for students from Reception to Year 7. Primarily because no one had the skills to conduct the lessons Associations eg. Cricket SA
Gymnastics teacher

3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?

Yes	11	(100.0%)
No	0	

Comments explaining why:

They have a stronger knowledge base about the teaching of PE and can motivate students to participate. They also can manage student behaviours more effectively during PE.

My background is HPE. Very important to me and PE is strongly promoted by me in the school.

Run sport and more specialised programs

Skill and expertise is valuable. Focus on this curriculum area (difficult for class teacher to access equipment/ prepare).

Structured lessons and continuum of learning

As a primary school it is easier to have HPE as a NIT subject.

Better curriculum – health and safety issues on top of resourcing, equipment is better maintained

Broader range of skills and knowledge to assist students

In order that children benefit from a skill development program, not just an activity/ games program which often happens with class teachers only providing HPE

Many of our staff are over 50 years and have some difficulties with running specialists programs due to health, mobility issues

My background is secondary PE (trained specialist PE degree at Adelaide Teachers College). I also moderated Year 12 PE for 12 years. Crucial for a trained specialist to teach such important/ valuable lifelong skills

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

Yes	6	(60.0%)
No	4	(40.0%)
No details/Not Applicable	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	2	(18.2%)
2 hours	9	(81.8%)
3 hours or more	0	

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

Yes	7	(63.6%)
No	4	(36.4%)

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

Yes	1	(9.1%)
No	10	(90.9%)

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	2	(18.2%)
Yes	9	(81.8%)

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	3	(27.3%)
Probably	2	(18.2%)
Yes	6	(54.5%)

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

HPE subject knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	9 (mentions)
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	5
Rapport/ communication and management skills	4
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	3
Motivating	2
Role model for healthy living	2
Team player/ team work/ collaboration	2
Relationship building	1
Good teacher/classroom	1
Safety awareness	1
First Aid qualifications	1
Engage students	1
Involved in sports & high skill level	1
Strong literacy, numeracy & research skills	1
Be involved practically in lessons	1
Willing to do extra-curricular activities	1
Athletic/ fitness/stamina/ active	1
Leadership	1

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

No details/Not Applicable

8

I strongly believe in the Literacy and Numeracy push within schools but a high level (45 min/day) fitness/ skills (emphasis on fitness) should be mandated.

Engaging, age appropriate skill development including game sense and broad curriculum knowledge

Sequential skill development relevant to age group. Provide students an understanding of their bodies/ how they work

Large sized schools (300-600 children) South Australia

- 14 returned surveys

Total returned surveys	14
Total SA government schools	37
% within state	37.8%

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

Classroom teachers	3	(21.4%)
Specialist HPE teacher	5	(35.7%)
Classroom and Specialist HPE	6	(42.9%)

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	11
Dance (Footsteps Dance – private business)	3
Swimming/aquatics (DECD trained instructors)	1
Gymnastics (Tri skills)	1

3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?

Yes	11	(84.6%)
No	2	(15.4%)
No details/Not Applicable	1	

Comments explaining why:

I believe that the quality of the curriculum and skill building of the students is greatly improved with specialist teachers.

They have the knowledge and skill to teach HPE in a more accurate and meaningful way. They are usually passionate about inspiring students towards a healthy lifestyle.

Skilled based

Undecided – depends on quality of specialist. My worry is that some class teachers abdicate too much responsibility

So PE is done and done correctly!

Appropriate subject knowledge, guaranteed regular PE lessons for all classes, better relationships with students and greater awareness of abilities, disabilities and attitudes to PE.

Provide a specific and devise program with the appropriate skill level and knowledge.

The specific skills of PE can be covered by someone with the skills themselves and who also have the passion for the teaching of PE.

Long term and valued program

Constant contact with students via PE lessons, yard duty roles, sports coaching roles and coordinator of sport within an R-7 school. Benefits include ongoing liaison with teachers, parents and sport committees.

An ageing population means older teachers are less likely to take PE lessons.

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

Yes	12	(85.8%)
No	1	(7.1%)
No details/not applicable	1	(7.1%)

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	(21.4%)
2 hours	8	(57.2%)
3 hours or more	3	(21.4%)

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

Yes	8	(61.5%)
No	5	(38.5%)
No details/Not Applicable	1	

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

Yes	2	(14.3%)
No	12	(85.7%)

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	(7.1%)
Probably	4	(28.6%)
Yes	9	(64.3%)

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

No	1	(7.1%)
Maybe	4	(28.6%)
Probably	4	(28.6%)
Yes	5	(35.7%)

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

HPE subject knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	9 (mentions)
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	7
Rapport/ communication and management skills	6
Introduce a variety of physical activities/ skills	5
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	5
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	4
Willing to do extra curricula activities	3
Engage students and fun	3
Relationship building	2
Willingness to learn	1
Expertise (specialist training in HPE)	1
Team player/ team work/ collaboration	1
Good teacher/ classroom	1
Innovative/ initiative	1
Commitment to school life	1
Role model for healthy living	1
Safety	1

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

There doesn't seem to be any professional development (PD) for already trained teachers to support their development.

It is very difficult to teach children about good nutrition when the government allows so much marketing of unhealthy items on tv and when they will not allow schools to stop parents sending junk food to school for students to consume.

Varied, skill based.

They often have no idea of programming and struggle big time in class settings – limits their employability. Need to know it is not 'free play'.

We would rather focus on strong generalist teachers with a HPE focus.

Physical activity is vital for children in schools however they need more than the one hour block provided by specialist HPE, to also include daily fitness for at least 20 mins/ day, promotion of out of school sports (competitive) and SAPSASA.

A solid involvement with a research topic at/during university qualifications related to Human Movement, student well being, nutrition etc. Therefore, indicating a solid background to support and be in behind HPE school programs.