

Presentation of Findings

Western Australia – Perth Region

Government schools

Western Australia Perth Region schools (total)

Total returned surveys	33
Total Western Australian government schools	51
% within state	64.7%

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

Classroom teacher	4	(12.1%)
Specialist HPE teacher	14	(42.4%)
Classroom & HPE specialist	14	(42.4%)
A generalist classroom in HPE role	1	(3.1%)

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	29	(87.9%)
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We have a Bluearth Specialist

School is also involved with Bluearth – a program that promotes health and mental wellbeing. This program is in addition to the school’s HPE program.

We do use external organisations to provide variety and choice in option sports eg. Golf, tennis, b/ball, squash, archery

Dance Sport is outsourced. Dance Instructors with appropriate dance qualifications.

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

Yes	33	(100.0%)
No	0	

Comments explaining why:

Phys Ed (not Health) is better taught by specialists as they are more skilled and having a designated with specialists means that it happens.

They have greater knowledge of skills and sports.

Specific expertise & professional learning - Time to prepare specialist programmes and interschool sporting activities.

Consistent approach across school, forms of skills, able to co-ordinate carnivals & other interschool activities.

In depth knowledge & understanding of Health & PE

Organisation; skill development

Better organisation of HPE program, currently we have specialist teachers in other areas not HPE

Level of expertise, skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for the job

Program they provide. Organisation of all interschool, state championships, school swimming/ athletics carnivals, school sport, in term swimming

Context of our school is students are academic and culturally the families don't involve children in sports. HPE teacher targets a need for our students

They generally have better skills and knowledge to equip them for this specialist role.

Specialised Phys Ed skills, interschool sport

Continuity of skill development from year level to year level. Greater focus on a variety of skills, games rather than favourites.

Curriculum knowledge, increased focus on PE, health & safety awareness, interesting activities across spectrum of PE, student/ teacher enthusiasm, increased skills development

PE teacher is consistent with skills, rules – useful for athletics. Some staff enjoy 'sport' but not necessarily weekly PE (skin implications)

More focussed at developing skills, techniques and coordination. Class teachers tend to engage more in 'games' without the skill development components.

Health encompassed social, emotional & physical health and this is extremely important in Primary Education. Physical Education provides vital opportunities to develop skills to act, commit, belong.

Skills are taught not just games played. One person responsible for reporting/ levels.

Integral to building positive health and wellbeing skills and attitudes in addition to collaborative and team building skills coupled with physical activity

With an ageing workforce, many teachers are not up to doing the Physical Activity component. Also, quality lessons require preparation of equipment and the learning space, which is easier for a specialist.

It is too difficult to run a PE skills program and coordinate PE if you don't have a specialist.

Believe that there is greater commitment.

Develop a culture of physical activity, organise and promote extra curricula activities.

They are able to focus on one element of the curriculum to a high level. This also develops a consistent and sequential element to the program (assuming they are good).

Better trained usually have superior skills in a particular sport.

Collaborative planning, specialised testing & moderation, consistency of programmes

Qualified level of expertise

General teachers aren't keen to commit time to PE. The children gain a lot from a LA specialist. Trained HPE teachers are usually proactive regarding healthy lives

Expertise, networking time

Specialists know the 'rhythm' of the school and can take responsibility for interschool and intraschool programs

Knowledge & skills

Ensure students are receiving quality PE lessons across all aspects of the PE curriculum. Timetabled specific PE classes ensures students are getting correct allocated time with emphasis on skill building & application to participation in sport.

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

Yes	15	(50.0%)
No	15	(50.0%)
No details/not applicable	3	

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	10	(31.2%)
2 hours	19	(59.4%)
3 hours or more	3	(9.4%)
No details/not applicable	1	

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

Yes	17	(51.5%)
No	16	(48.5%)

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

Yes	13	(39.4%)
No	20	(60.6%)

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

No	1	(3.0%)
Maybe	3	(9.1%)
Probably	9	(27.3%)
Yes	20	(60.6%)

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

No	5	(15.6%)
Maybe	6	(18.8%)
Probably	13	(40.6%)
Yes	8	(25.0%)
No details/not applicable	1	

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

HPE curriculum knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	35 (mentions)
Rapport /communication and management skills	25
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	22
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	13
Introduce a variety of physical activities/skills	9
Athletic/ fitness/ stamina/ active	6
Liases well with other staff, schools & parents (network)	6
Good teacher/ classroom	5
Commitment to school life	4
Relationship building	4
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	3
Engage students & fun	3
Team player/ team work/ collaboration	3
Role model for healthy living	2
Professional	2
Willing to do extra curricula activities	1
Experience in teaching HPE	1
Innovative/ initiative	1
Inspirational	1
Leadership	1
Expertise	1
Confidence	1

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

Our PE program consists of fitness, weekly sport and lessons. The quality of the program is dependent on teacher skill & interest.

Need to reiterate values component of HPE as well as competitive skills eg.

Sportsmanship, acknowledging defeat, acceptance of healthy lifestyle

The best primary PE teachers, in my experience, are also or have been quality classroom teachers. Same skill set, different learning environment.

Unfortunately our allocation of staff system does not allow for 'specialist' in primary school. A school gets given a 'teacher' and if they have specialist qualification that is a 'bonus'.

HPE staff should not be isolated from other staff members. In a period of an ageing work force in teaching fit, active, younger teachers should be shining lights in primary schools.

A specialist teacher in the primary school is essential in PE.

Sports specialists coming to school compliment what is being done. Professional Athlete would be great but too expensive. Engagement and lots of equipment – FUN & VARIETY

Working outside the normal school day – extra curricula activities. Before and after school. Ability to develop relationships.

Good variety – provide challenges to focus an understanding of the self better.

Develop positive attitudes – keep persevering despite challenges.

Every primary school should have an HPE or PE teacher allocated in its staffing formula.

Training would be useful. In Term 2 we play Interschool sport (soccer, netball, football). In Term 1 we have a Swimming Carnival and do outside training. In Term 3 we do Athletics.

Focus on early development of core strength, hand/eye coordination, flexibility, strength, crossing mid line, balance etc. Then effective cooling techniques for older students. Need to link in with research on brain development, developing neural pathways, maximising participation of all, enjoyment, challenge etc.

Good knowledge of major & minor games/ dance/ gymnastics – sequenced to year level (typical expectations).

Having a 'double qualification' would help with full time employment because small schools may only have a part time HPE position; so being a generalist would add versatility.

My experience shows that an excellent generalist teacher with an interest in HPE can make an outstanding specialist.

At my school we no longer employ specialists. In the first instance they must be an excellent classroom teacher, then a specialist. This improves their flexibility across the school.

Behaviour management skills are a must.

Making consistent judgements. Sports carnivals, coaching.

I am very supportive of good quality special learning for HPE teachers.

Must come from strong research base with specific skills teaching. Fundamental movement skills taught from K. Whole body strength and fitness testing – teaching programs – testing. Exposure to different sports.

Small sized schools (less than 100 children) Western Australia Perth Region

- 0 returned surveys

Medium sized schools (100 – 300 children) Western Australia Perth Region

- 6 returned surveys

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

Classroom teacher	2	(33.3%)
Specialist HPE teacher	2	(33.3%)
Classroom & specialist HPE	2	(33.3%)

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	4	(66.7%)
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We have a Bluearth Specialist

School is also involved with Bluearth – a program that promotes health and mental wellbeing. This program is in addition to the school’s HPE program.

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

Yes	6	(100.0%)
No	0	

Comments explaining why:

Phys Ed (not Health) is better taught by specialists as they are more skilled and having a designated with specialists means that it happens.

They have greater knowledge of skills and sports.

Specific expertise & professional learning - Time to prepare specialist programmes and interschool sporting activities.

Consistent approach across school, forms of skills, able to co-ordinate carnivals & other interschool activities.

In depth knowledge & understanding of Health & PE

Organisation; skill development

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

Yes	2	(40.0%)
No	3	(60.0%)
No details/not applicable	1	

Data - WA Perth Region

Dr. Timothy Lynch – Monash University, Faculty of Education

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	(33.3%)
2 hours	3	(50.0%)
3 hours or more	1	(16.7%)

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

Yes	2	(33.3%)
No	4	(66.7%)

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

Yes	3	(50.0%)
No	3	(50.0%)

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	(16.7%)
Yes	5	(83.3%)

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

No	1	(16.7%)
Maybe	1	(16.7%)
Probably	2	(33.3%)
Yes	2	(33.3%)

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

HPE curriculum knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	8 (mentions)
Rapport /communication and management skills	6
Introduce a variety of physical activities/skills	4
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	3
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm (children)	3
Cater for all learning needs (empathy & support)	1
Good teacher/ classroom	1
Liases well with other staff, schools & parents (network)	1

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

Our PE program consists of fitness, weekly sport and lessons. The quality of the program is dependent on teacher skill & interest.
 Need to reiterate values component of HPE as well as competitive skills eg. Sportsmanship, acknowledging defeat, acceptance of healthy lifestyle
 The best primary PE teachers, in my experience, are also or have been quality classroom teachers. Same skill set, different learning environment.
 Unfortunately our allocation of staff system does not allow for 'specialist' in primary school. A school gets given a 'teacher' and if they have specialist qualification that is a 'bonus'.

Large sized schools (300-600 children) Western Australia Perth Region

- 20 returned surveys

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

Classroom teachers	2	(10.0%)
Specialist HPE	9	(45.0%)
Specialist HPE & classroom teachers	8	(40.0%)
A generalist classroom teacher in HPE role	1	(5.0%)

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 18 (90.0%)

We do use external organisations to provide variety and choice in option sports eg. Golf, tennis, b/ball, squash, archery
Dance Sport is outsourced. Dance Instructors with appropriate dance qualifications.

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

Yes 20 (100.0%)
No 0

Comments explaining why:

Better organisation of HPE program, currently we have specialist teachers in other areas not HPE

Level of expertise, skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for the job

Program they provide. Organisation of all interschool, state championships, school swimming/ athletics carnivals, school sport, in term swimming

Context of our school is students are academic and culturally the families don't involve children in sports. HPE teacher targets a need for our students

They generally have better skills and knowledge to equip them for this specialist role.

Specialised Phys Ed skills, interschool sport

Continuity of skill development from year level to year level. Greater focus on a variety of skills, games rather than favourites.

Curriculum knowledge, increased focus on PE, health & safety awareness, interesting activities across spectrum of PE, student/ teacher enthusiasm, increased skills development

PE teacher is consistent with skills, rules – useful for athletics. Some staff enjoy ‘sport’ but not necessarily weekly PE (skin implications)

More focussed at developing skills, techniques and coordination. Class teachers tend to engage more in ‘games’ without the skill development components.

Health encompassed social, emotional & physical health and this is extremely important in Primary Education. Physical Education provides vital opportunities to develop skills to act, commit, belong.

Skills are taught not just games played. One person responsible for reporting/ levels. Integral to building positive health and wellbeing skills and attitudes in addition to collaborative and team building skills coupled with physical activity

With an ageing workforce, many teachers are not up to doing the Physical Activity component. Also, quality lessons require preparation of equipment and the learning space, which is easier for a specialist.

It is too difficult to run a PE skills program and coordinate PE if you don’t have a specialist.

Believe that there is greater commitment.

Develop a culture of physical activity, organise and promote extra curricula activities.

They are able to focus on one element of the curriculum to a high level. This also develops a consistent and sequential element to the program (assuming they are good).

Better trained usually have superior skills in a particular sport.

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

Yes	9	(47.4%)
No	10	(52.6%)
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	6	(31.6%)
2 hours	11	(57.9%)
3 hours or more	2	(10.5%)
No details/not applicable	1	

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

Yes	11	(55.0%)
No	9	(45.0%)

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

Yes	7	(35.0%)
No	13	(65.0%)

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

No	0	
Maybe	2	(10.0%)
Probably	7	(35.0%)
Yes	11	(55.0%)

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

No	3	(15.8%)
Maybe	4	(21.0%)
Probably	8	(42.1%)
Yes	4	(21.1%)
No details/not applicable	1	

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

HPE subject knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	20 (mention)
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	14
Rapport /communication and management skills	14
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm/ motivated/energy	8
Athletic/ fitness/ stamina/ active	4
Good teacher/ classroom	4
Commitment to school life	3
Liases well with other staff, schools & parents (network)	3
Role model for healthy living	2
Cater for all learning needs & ages (empathy & support)	2
Professional	2

Relationship building	2
Team player/ team work/ collaboration	2
Introduce a variety of physical activities/ skills	2
Engage students & fun	2
Willing to do extra curricula activities	1
Experience in teaching HPE	1
Innovative/ initiative	1
Inspirational	1
Leadership	1
Expertise	1
Confidence	1
Hard worker/ drive	1

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

HPE staff should not be isolated from other staff members. In a period of an ageing work force in teaching fit, active, younger teachers should be shining lights in primary schools.

A specialist teacher in the primary school is essential in PE.

Sports specialists coming to school compliment what is being done. Professional Athlete would be great but too expensive. Engagement and lots of equipment – FUN & VARIETY

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Good knowledge of major & minor games/ dance/ gymnastics – sequenced to year level (typical expectations).

Having a ‘double qualification’ would help with full time employment because small schools may only have a part time HPE position; so being a generalist would add versatility.

My experience shows that an excellent generalist teacher with an interest in HPE can make an outstanding specialist.

At my school we no longer employ specialists. In the first instance they must be an excellent classroom teacher, then a specialist. This improves their flexibility across the school.

Behaviour management skills are a must.

Very large sized schools (600 children and more) Western Australia Perth Region

- 7 returned surveys

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

Classroom teachers	0	
Specialist HPE	3	(42.9%)
Specialist HPE & classroom teachers	4	(57.1%)

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	7	(100.0%)
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3. Do you prefer to have specialist HPE teachers in your school?

Yes	7	(100.0%)
No	0	(%)

Comments explaining why:

Collaborative planning, specialised testing & moderation, consistency of programmes

Qualified level of expertise

General teachers aren't keen to commit time to PE. The children gain a lot from a LA specialist. Trained HPE teachers are usually proactive regarding healthy lives

Expertise, networking time

Specialists know the 'rhythm' of the school and can take responsibility for interschool and intra-school programs

Knowledge & skills

Ensure students are receiving quality PE lessons across all aspects of the PE curriculum. Timetabled specific PE classes ensures students are getting correct allocated time with emphasis on skill building & application to participation in sport.

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

Yes	4	(66.7%)
No	2	(33.3%)
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	(28.6%)
2 hours	5	(71.4%)
3 hours or more	0	

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

Yes	4	(57.1%)
No	3	(42.9%)

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

Yes	3	(42.9%)
No	4	(57.1%)

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

No	1	(14.3%)
Maybe	1	(14.3%)
Probably	1	(14.3%)
Yes	4	(57.1%)

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

No	1	(14.3%)
Maybe	1	(14.3%)
Probably	3	(42.9%)
Yes	2	(28.6%)

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

HPE subject knowledge & dev appropriate pedagogy	7 (mention)
Planning/ assessment and flexibility (organised)	5
Rapport /communication and management skills	5
Introduce a variety of physical activities/ skills	3
Liaises well with other staff, schools & parents (network)	2
Passion/ interest/ enthusiasm/ motivated/ energy	2
Athletic/ fitness/ stamina/ active	2
Relationship building	2
Commitment to school life	1
Engage students & fun	1
Team player/ team work/ collaboration	1

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

Making consistent judgements. Sports carnivals, coaching.

I am very supportive of good quality special learning for HPE teachers.

Must come from strong research base with specific skills teaching. Fundamental movement skills taught from K. Whole body strength and fitness testing – teaching programs – testing. Exposure to different sports.