

The Tender Bridge™ *Quarterly*

Bringing schools and funds together

ISSUE 1
JULY 2010

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural *Tender Bridge Quarterly* where we ask selected seekers and granters of funds for their views on how to be successful.

As a subscriber, the *Quarterly* will also give you the chance to have 'your say' on the shape and direction of Tender Bridge topics and services. We started the Tender Bridge because school leaders told ACER that they did not have the time, knowledge and, in some cases, the confidence to seek, secure and acquit funds outside of mainstream employer sources for educational purposes.

We began in 2009 with a simple principle to bring more educators into contact with more fund opportunities. Since then, as we approach our first birthday at the end of August, the Tender Bridge has grown from '0' funds in its database to nearly '600' (and growing); conducted workshops in two states; and introduced a 'my alert' service, FAQs and tools on its website for our subscribers in every state and territory of Australia. In this edition of the *Tender Bridge Quarterly*, among

the items, you can read about two further new developments for 2010 – 'Cases of success' and 'MyBidGuide'.

My colleague, Dr Emma Curtin, and I are passionate about what we do. Our research and writing backgrounds, along with ACER's library, IT and publishing staff expertise are the engine room of the service.

Starting any new venture is simultaneously exhilarating and nerve racking. Thank you very much to all those funders and subscribers who have emailed or rung us with words of encouragement about the Tender Bridge. We hope you enjoy this first edition and we look forward to growing and developing this research, development service with you to make it the best it can.

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[Tender Bridge Home page](http://tenderbridge.acer.edu.au) <http://tenderbridge.acer.edu.au>

[Tender Bridge subscription \(NEW\)](http://tenderbridge.acer.edu.au/subscription) <http://tenderbridge.acer.edu.au/subscription>

[Tender Bridge email](mailto:tenderbridge@acer.edu.au) tenderbridge@acer.edu.au

my Say

Quick polling questions

Should the Tender Bridge also include 'scholarship' opportunities in its database?

Have your say: Yes / No / Not sure
tenderbridge@acer.edu.au

my Feedback

HELP US TO HELP YOU

A quick (5-10 min) survey about current and future practices of the Tender Bridge.

Go to: <https://surveys.acer.edu.au/index.php?sid=28753&lang=en>

my Alert

Save yourself even more time by signing up for our weekly 'My Alert' service: over half of our current subscribers have done so. Each Monday receive a list of funding opportunities that have been added to the database in the last 7 days for your state or territory.

Tip: Instead of just one person from your organisation receiving the alert, why not sign up a whole team. This wider group may see an opportunity that perhaps you do not.

Cases of success

New to the Tender Bridge are evidence-based storied accounts of practice. This series aims to provide readers with concrete examples of how to grow and resource 'great ideas' for maximum impact. Each account portrays key elements that are needed if ideas are to take hold and flourish. Particular attention is paid to peoples' experiences of seeking and securing funds (and other resources), evaluating 'success', and lessons learned along the way. Read about the first case in the series, 'The Outdoor Classroom' (Tenison Woods College and Anglican Community Care, South Australia: a school and not-for-profit model). See: http://tenderbridge.acer.edu.au/images/documents/tb_case1.pdf

'MyBidGuide'

At the Tender Bridge we recognise that bringing new and diverse sources of funds to schools or schools in partnership with others is a key way we can make life easier for our subscribers. But we also recognise that for many of you, while access to funds is helpful, some personalised assistance with different aspects of the funding process would also be great. The Tender Bridge is seeking to list a limited number of 'MyBidGuide' consultants (for subscribers only). Based on the recommendation of others and various other conditions, the Tender Bridge will list a consultant on our website. Our role is limited to acting as a conduit between a consultant and subscriber: The rest is up to them to discuss and negotiate. This service is in its infancy, with a couple of consultants already in the process of preparing their bio for inclusion on the website. **Do you know of someone who has high calibre skills in this area and might be interested in being listed on our website?** Maybe it's you! If so, let us know. Read more about this emerging development, 'MyBidGuide' <http://tenderbridge.acer.edu.au/images/documents/tb-mybidguide.pdf>

Quarterly review of funds

You may be aware that we have recently completed another quarterly review of our database (the third to date). The review involves double-checking every entry in our growing database against the funding source website (from which the information came); making sure information is correct and reflective of any changes that may have already been requested by the funder; and removing outdated information or broken links. Once completed, we advise the granters of funds of our review and give them an opportunity to provide further information. We have received terrific feedback from many funding bodies and are excited by the fact that a number are now contacting us directly to advise us of new funding rounds. As the Tender Bridge grows, we hope to continue to forge such strong collaborative relationships with funding bodies to ensure a better service for you.

Workshops

Earlier this year we ran workshops in Melbourne and Sydney, with consistently positive feedback. Following a subscriber request, we are running a regional workshop in Bendigo, Victoria on Friday 13 August 2010. Don't Delay, tell us today if you intend registering. Find out more. <http://tenderbridge.acer.edu.au/images/documents/ACER%20TB-schools%20Mallee.pdf>

From the mouths of funders – key learning points

Caitriona Fay (Program Manager, The Ian Potter Foundation and The George Alexander Foundation): "... the best applications I have read and projects I have seen supported are invariably the ones where the applicant has spoken with the Foundation prior to submitting. It's really challenging to write an application that inspires the reader in the same way that speaking with someone involved in a project can. That's why here at the Foundation we encourage people to pick up the phone before they submit"