**SIG activity**
The conference was a very active and productive time for SIGs. Nominations and changes to convenor team increased in the lead up and during the Conference. An email was sent out on the 23rd of December with pointers about planning and engagement. Some SIGs already have circulated beginning of year newsletters.

**'Health Check' of SIGs**
We started looking at the SIGs, their membership and how active they are. In December, the SIG's convenors for Middle Years of Schooling were contacted to flag the need to look at the viability of the SIG, based on membership and presentations at AARE2019.

In the process of developing a 'checklist for SIGs to use. This will include items on Convenors' team, communication, engagement, social media (linking to Aspa's work), outputs and growth.

**SIG Competitive Funding**
In the 2019-2020 financial year, the new model of Major Grants (10 x $5000) and Minor Grants (10 x $1,500) was introduced. Twenty-four applications were received (8 for Small grants, 15 for large grants, and 1 joint application). Funding was provided to 8 Small grants, 1 joint, and 8 Major grant applications). Reports about them have started to come in, but some are still in process.

Feedback on the new funding structure was positive with many SIGs working on ideas for 2020.

**Proposed SIG Competitive Funding**
Continue with the structure of 10 Major and 10 Minor Grants, and the possibility to combine them (i.e., apply for one Major and one Minor) and a joint application.

In addition, we propose the following two additional competitive funding opportunities for consideration:

1. A pilot scheme for grants to specifically support capacity building opportunities within the SIGs (mentoring, collaborations, etc.). SIGs aim to be a support base for their membership. One-off programs in terms writing retreats, HDR/early career mentoring is one strand of the funding applications we receive. However, mostly these are designed as one event opportunities.

The idea is to support SIGs to trial within SIG capacity building opportunities with sustained engagement and specific expected outcomes.
The projects should:
- Address the research needs of education researchers at different career stages, but with benefits to HDR/early career/middle career members
- Engage with members across institutions having an open process of recruiting participants
- Have a process of sustained engagement, e.g. regular contact with book-end events (e.g., a mid-year meeting and an end-year at the conference meeting)
- Specific outcomes related to capacity building among SIG members.

Proposed to allocate $3000 ($5000) for each of the grants and up to two grants, and pilot them in this funding round to see their feasibility.

2. Financial support for SIG specific activities that relate to the 50-year anniversary. An example of that could be for a SIG to go back and review topics of interests and changes over time of presentations in the SIG, and then present that at the conference in terms of how the field has developed/changed.
   Another example, could be a small 'oral history' project across members.

   Proposed to have 1 or 2 projects with a funding of up to $1500 ($2000).