



Minister for Education

SPEECH BY THE HON ADRIAN PICCOLI MP
Professional Teachers' Council NSW
Monday 28 November 2011
Leichhardt

*****check against delivery*****

Let me join Nerina in acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of this land. I also pay my respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you this evening and present these prestigious awards.

This evening we publicly honour educators who, in addition to their demanding work, provide service in a voluntary capacity to the Professional Teachers' Council New South Wales and its member associations.

Congratulations to all recipients and welcome to the family members, friends, school principals and teacher association representatives who are here with them.

We are very aware that what makes the difference to students' learning and achievement is the quality of their teachers.

What we also know from research is that teachers learn best from their colleagues. When I am visiting schools, I often hear teachers say that the best way to learn and develop their own skills is through collaboration with their colleagues.

Teachers often say that the most effective professional learning is not about attending one-off workshops. Rather it is about working with their colleagues: it is about observing other teachers' lessons; collaboratively preparing lessons and resources; collaboratively evaluating students' work; giving and receiving structured feedback, and team teaching.

What is most important is that your own professional learning is not one in isolation, but one that encourages teachers and school leaders to work together to support student learning.

New South Wales has a strong history of government, Catholic and independent schools working together to respond to a shared agenda to meet the professional learning needs of teachers and school leaders to support and improve our students' learning.

The Professional Teachers' Council will continue to play a significant role in supporting teachers during the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. When we introduce new curriculum in NSW, the work of the various subject associations in supporting their colleagues from both government and non-government schools will further assist teacher learning.

When the Australian Curriculum is implemented in NSW, it will be important for us all to work together to support teachers across the State to implement the changes.

The activities of the Professional Teachers' Council New South Wales are underpinned by the recognition that effective teachers engage in professional learning throughout their teaching career.

Teachers who are active members of their teachers' associations and the Professional Teachers' Council New South Wales demonstrate their professional commitment to this ongoing professional learning to enhance teachers' knowledge and practice.

In NSW, the Institute of Teachers and the Professional Teaching Standards, developed largely by teachers, outline what teachers need to know, understand and be able to do to be effective members of their profession. This includes supporting colleagues to improve their professional knowledge and practice.

Tonight we publicly honour educators who, in addition to their demanding work, provide service in a voluntary capacity to the Professional Teachers' Council New South Wales and its member associations.

They make a significant contribution to effective teaching and learning for students in all NSW schools by promoting, supporting and advocating for the professional development and growth of their colleagues.

The support and encouragement provided by these outstanding award recipients have enriched our education systems, enhanced the work of our teachers and made a significant difference in our schools.

I would like to congratulate them – they have worked cooperatively, sharing their expertise to improve outcomes for our students.