



Good evening

Tonight we celebrate the enormous contribution made by teachers from all sectors towards improving the learning and socio-economic outcomes of our students across NSW through the provision of quality professional learning.

We are celebrating on the land of the Gadagal and Wangal peoples and I acknowledge elders both past, present and future who are the custodians of this land.

I would like to welcome

The Hon.	Adrian	Piccoli MP	Minister for Education
Dr	John	Kaye	Greens Member Legislative Council
Cr	Rochelle	Porteous	Mayor Leichhardt Council
Mr	Tom	Alegounarias	President NSW Board of Studies
Mrs	Helen	Walton	President NSW Federation of Parents
Ms	Dianne	Giblin	Australian Council of State School Organisations

Representatives from the NSW Institute of Teachers; the Catholic Education Commission; the Catholic Education Office; the Association of Independent Schools; the NSW Teachers' Federation; the Independent Education Union; and a special welcome to:

Ms	Dorothy	Hoddinott OA	Past President PTC NSW
Ms	Ros	Strong	Past President PTC NSW

And welcome to all award recipients and their guests.

Thirty eight (38) years ago, PTC NSW was established to provide support and leadership for the rapidly increasing number and size of teaching associations. The purpose of the PTC and its member teaching associations is to shape excellence in teaching and student learning. PTC NSW achieves this by linking and supporting member associations across all sectors in NSW schools.

Through our 45 member associations, PTC NSW represents teachers at all levels of the education system, early childhood to tertiary, in both government and non-government sectors and in all Key Learning Areas. These member associations operate on a voluntary basis to identify, organise and deliver high quality professional development to all sectors across NSW – and tonight we recognise the outstanding voluntary work of our member associations.

PTC NSW leads and supports professional teaching associations in building capacity to support teacher quality and student learning and provides ongoing professional learning throughout teachers' careers. This is achieved by providing a unique set of services to member associations. These are centralised in one organisation - PTC NSW. This organisation brings the profession together and provides a stable infrastructure to build a robust and informed professional learning community.

PTC NSW provides an independent and non-partisan forum for the discussion of education policy and provides a strong corporate voice for teaching associations on educational issues.

The results delivered through the unique PTC NSW framework are possible due to it being a well governed, appropriately audited voluntary organisation supporting the professional teaching associations in their work with teachers in NSW schools.

- PTCNSW member associations operate on a voluntary basis to identify, organise and deliver high quality professional development. Practising classroom professionals share their knowledge and experience on a goodwill basis with other teachers interested in the latest research in curriculum and pedagogy.
- Our member associations currently have 2215 professional development courses and sessions endorsed through NSW Institute of Teachers. Each of these courses/sessions have high participation rates of experienced and New Scheme teachers from all sectors
- These member associations provide high quality professional development courses for all KLA groups across learning stages K-12.
- PTC NSW provides forum opportunities on a range of educational issues that encourage debate and maintain currency of information of its members. Forums this year have focussed on the Australian Curriculum; NSW Board of Studies' initiatives; National Professional Standards for teachers and other initiatives of the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership.
- PTC NSW has a well established location with strong organisational structures supported by quality facilities including: video conferencing, office space for a number of professional teaching associations and a well trained and experienced secretariat. This structure provides cost effective and accessible face-to-face and on-line learning opportunities to teachers in metropolitan, regional and rural areas across NSW.

The unique structure and membership of PTC NSW provides sought-after input and contributes to decisions that influence national education directions through its membership and involvement in the Australian Professional Teachers' Association (APTA). At state level, government bodies seek PTC's views and representation on committees to provide input into a range of policy, curriculum and general education initiatives as we provide independent and non-partisan practical feedback to a range of stakeholders across education.

The PTC NSW structure supports the ever changing Professional Learning needs of the teaching profession. As a result of this structure PTC NSW member associations are confident that PTC NSW has an established location that is accessible through public transport and provides appropriate meeting spaces, resources and access at all times that can be supported by administration, financial and technology support services.

PTC NSW has funding agreements that will take us into the future, including: the Global Education Project- Ausaid; APTA – Promoting Professional Learning Project; APTA – Pilot Standards Project; Primary Teachers' Network Project – delivering professional learning and resources to metropolitan, regional and rural primary teachers.

However, of significant importance is the financial support provided by the NSW Government. This is vital to the maintenance of all services in place to support the free labour from teachers. We sincerely thank the Minister of Education, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, for his support and the continued support of the NSW Liberal / National Coalition Government. This demonstrates their true level of commitment to education and makes the work of PTC NSW possible. The combination of these efforts by all parties ensures the continued positive learning outcomes for **all** students in **all** NSW schools.

I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the families of the teachers who we are recognising tonight. Voluntary work underpins our state and national economies and this evening we are recognising the hours, skills and experience that these teachers contribute untiringly to our profession. Thank you all for your generosity of spirit.

..and in closing let me say;

High-quality professional learning is essential to creating schools in which all students and teachers are learners who continually improve their performance.

Thank you