



PROFESSIONAL  
TEACHERS'  
COUNCIL NSW

08  
ANNUAL REPORT

*Promoting Teacher Professionalism*



**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Report  
of the  
Professional Teachers' Council NSW**

October 2008

*Promoting Teacher Professionalism*

## President's Report 2008

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions that the Directors of the Board have made to the functioning of the Professional Teachers' Council throughout this year. Your commitment to the work of the Council through lobbying, representation and governance has continued the elevation our organisation at the professional, public and governmental levels.

My thanks to the members of the Executive, who have ensured that the functioning of PTC has continued to run smoothly in my first year as President. I greatly appreciate their support and mentoring in this role.

We welcomed our new Executive Officer this year, Mr Kim Tsolakis who has made the job of the executive and the board much easier through his calm, efficient and professional manner. We also welcome Yvonne Little and Carmel Logalbo to the secretariat.

The Professional Teachers' Council was endorsed as a provider of continuing professional development by the NSW Institute of Teachers in 2007 and has umbrella endorsement for its member associations. This year workshops have been offered to our Professional Teaching Associations providing them with practical information to support their registrations of professional learning activities. We are pleased to say that associations have taken the opportunity to have their courses endorsed through the PTC and more are coming on board in the next year.

We continued the development of our strategic relationships with the Minister of Education, the Director General of Education, the Department of Education and Training, the NSW Board of Studies, and the NSW Institute of Teachers through regular meetings. We were able to do this even in the absence of a President of the BOS, and an acting Education Minister for a short time. This year we have also begun meeting with the Catholic Education Commission (CEC), the Association of Independent Schools and NSW Teachers' Federation. We continue our partnership with parent bodies and look to continue to strengthen those through the development of professional learning experiences.

PTC will continue to advocate for member associations on all aspects of education. We continue our involvement in the consultation process for the National Curriculum.

The PTC K-6 Network was established in 2007 to provide teachers in this area with the opportunity to access professional teaching associations. This group will be further developed during the coming year.

Our Accounts Manager, Cathy Leonardi and Treasurer, Sue Gazis, have continued the direction established in 2005 and our financial situation has continued to improve with

the rationalisation of the reporting mechanisms, investment and structure of our accounts. Future directions for increasing the income of the Council will be led by the Executive Officer and will include the development of the Conference Centre into a viable resource.

Funding from AGQTP, Values Education and Teaching Australia have provided professional learning opportunities including forums, workshops, symposiums, conferences and projects. One of the Values Education and Teaching Australia highlights was the President's Dinner that was addressed by Assoc. Professor Ilana Snyder who is currently a member of the Faculty of Education at Monash University, Melbourne. Ilana provided the evening with an entertaining and insightful talk on the ideas and research underpinning her recent book 'Literacy Wars', which has sparked much debate in education circles.

This year PTC, under the umbrella of AJCPTA, entered into a partnership with ACEL and ASD to host a hugely successful international conference in Melbourne. This relationship proved to be productive in

raising the profile of our national and state bodies across the profession with Board members chairing many of the workshops and will continue next year.

In celebration of Australian Teachers' Day, we will announce the nominees for our Exceptional Service Awards and Outstanding Professional Service Awards in a press release, with the presentations to be held in December at the PTC Annual Presentation Evening.

Thank you to the members of the secretariat who have continued to provide our Professional Teaching Associations with services through many changes and, in particular, to Kim Tsolakis the Executive Officer.

Thank you once again to all our members for your work as volunteers.

*Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Buck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Karen Buck**  
**President**  
**Professional Teachers Council NSW**

17 October 2008



# Director's Report 2008 For the Year Ended 30 June 2008

## Professional Teachers' Council NSW

Your directors present this report on the company for the financial year ended 30th June 2008.

### Directors

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated. The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

<b>Judith Anderson</b>	- member of the Board, committee member of the Mathematical Association NSW
<b>Matthew Bentley</b>	- member of the Board, committee member of the English Teachers' Association NSW
<b>Karen Buck</b>	- President of the Board, member of the Executive, member of the Secretariat, Finance and Technology subcommittees. President of the Early Childhood Education Council
<b>Ruth Doyle</b>	- member of the Board, member of the PTC NSW Policy Review committee and PTC NSW Technology committee. Committee member of the Early Childhood Education Council
<b>Susan Gazis</b>	- Treasurer, member of the Executive, member of the Secretariat, Finance, Annual Presentation Evening & AGM, Media Award and Technology subcommittees. Member PTC NSW Technology committee. Treasurer of the English Teachers Association NSW. Vice President of the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations and member of the Board of Teaching Australia. NSW Institute of Teachers observer on the PTC NSW Professional Learning Committee
<b>Bronwyn Hession</b>	- member of the Board, member of the external Values /education committee. President of the Economics and Business Educators NSW
<b>Ailsa Holmes-Walker</b>	- member of the Board, committee member of the Australian School Library Association (NSW branch)
<b>Glenda Johnstone</b>	- member of the Board, member of the PTC NSW Technology committee and the Professional Learning committee. Committee member of the Computing Studies Teachers' Association.
<b>Ann Kershaw</b>	- member of the Board, committee member of Australian Council for Health Physical Education and Recreation (NSW branch)
<b>Anne Marie Lim</b>	- member of the Board, committee member of the PTC NSW Policy Review committee. Committee member of the Careers Advisers Association NSW
<b>Denis Mootz</b>	- member of the Board, Treasurer of the History Teachers' Association

<b>Margaret Pickup</b>	- Honorary Secretary of the Board, member of the Executive, member of the Secretariat, Finance, Annual Presentation Evening & AGM and Media Award subcommittees. Vice President of Australian Council for Health Physical Education and Recreation (NSW branch)
<b>Anne Power</b>	- member of the Board, member of the Media Award sub committee, Chairperson of Australian Society for Music Education (NSW)
<b>Nerina Pretlove</b>	- Vice President of the Board, member of the Executive, member of the Secretariat and Finance committees. Chair of the PTC NSW Professional Learning Committee, Chair Teachers Professional Pay committee and Chair Raising the School Leaving Age committee. Member of the Technology Educators Association NSW
<b>James Richardson</b>	- member of the Board, committee member of ATESOL NSW
<b>Dan Riley</b>	- member of the Board, committee member Raising the School Leaving Age committee. Committee member Australian Council for Educational Leaders (NSW)
<b>James Scott</b>	- member of the Board, member of the PTC NSW Professional Learning committee, Teachers Professional Pay committee and Raising the School Leaving Age committee. Committee member of the Science Teachers' Association NSW

## Directors' Meetings

Directors' attendance at Board Meetings from 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

	Jul 07	Aug 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Feb 08	Mar 08	May 08	Jun 08
JUDITH ANDERSON	A	√	A	√	√	√	√	A
MATTHEW BENTLEY	A	√	A	√	E	√	√	A
KAREN BUCK	√	√	√	√	A	A	√	√
RUTH DOYLE	Elected Director at PTC Board Meeting 4/2/08					√	√	√
SUSAN GAZIS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
BRONWYN HESSION	√	√	A	A	A	√	√	√
AILSA HOLMES-WALKER	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	√
GLENDA JOHNSTONE	Elected Director at AGM 17/10/07			√	√	E	√	A
ANN KERSHAW	Elected Director at AGM 17/10/07			√	E	√	A	A
ANNE MARIE LIM	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
PAMELA MATTERS	√	√	√	Retired at AGM 17/10/07				
DENIS MOOTZ	√	√	A	A	√	√	√	√
MARGARET PICKUP	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ANNE POWER	A	A	√	A	√	A	E	A
CHRISTINE PRESTON	√	√	A	Retired at AGM 17/10/07				
NERINA PRETLOVE	√	√	√	A	A	√	√	A
JAMES RICHARDSON	A	L	L	A	√	A	A	A
DAN RILEY	√	A	√	√	√	√	√	√
JAMES SCOTT	Elected Director at AGM 17/10/07			√	√	√	√	√
SUZANNE ZIEMS	√	A	√	Retired at AGM 17/10/07				

- √ Present
- √c Present Conference Link
- A Apologies
- E Apologies due to school or association business or extenuating family circumstances
- \* On PTC business
- L Leave of absence
- non attendance

## **Operating Result**

The profit of the company for the financial year amounted to:

Year Ended 30 June, 2008 \$2,173.00.

## **Review of Operations**

A review of operations for the Professional Teachers Council NSW during the financial year have resulted in the conclusion that the principal activities of the company are to act as a coordination and consultancy body for the professional teachers associations in New South Wales. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial year.

## **Significant Changes in the State of Affairs**

No significant changes in the company's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

## **Principal Activities**

In the opinion of the Directors of the Professional Teachers' Council, NSW, there have been no significant changes in the operation of the Professional Teachers' Council NSW in the past twelve months. The Council has continued to act as a co-ordination and consultancy body for professional teachers' associations in New South Wales.

## **After Balance Date Events**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in subsequent financial years.

## **Future Developments**

The likely developments in the operations of the company and the expected results of those operations in future financial years are expected to continue as previously and be a coordination and consultancy peak organisation that provides services to member associations.

## **Environmental Issues**

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or a State or Territory.

## **Dividends**

The company was incorporated as being limited by guarantee. Under the original Memorandum & Articles and supported by previous and current Corporations law, the company is specifically precluded from paying any dividends to members.

## **Options**

As the company is limited by guarantee, shares and options are not available to members or investors.

## **Directors' Interests in Shares of the Company or Related Bodies Corporate**

No director has a financial interest in the company or a financial interest in any of the company's member associations.

**Directors' Benefits**

No director has received or has become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the company or related body corporate with a director, a firm which a director is a member or an entity in which a director has a substantial financial interest.

This statement excludes a benefit included in the aggregate amount of emoluments received or due and receivable by directors shown in the company's accounts, or the fixed salary of a full-time employee of the company or related body corporate.

**Indemnifying Officer or Auditor**

No indemnities have been given or agreed to be given or insurance premiums paid or agreed to be paid, during or since the end of the financial year, to any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

**Proceedings on Behalf of Company**

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervened in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any part of those proceedings. The company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 has been included.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



**Susan Gazis**  
Treasurer

**Karen Buck**  
President

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2008

**Financial Statements**  
for the year ended 30 June 2008

# Directors' Declaration

Professional Teachers' Council, NSW  
ABN – 48 002 220 957


The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and:
  - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2007 and of its performance for the year ended on that date:
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

  
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Susan Gazis  
Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Karen Buck  
President

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2007

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**INCOME STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>2008</u> \$	<u>2007</u> \$
Revenues from ordinary activities	2	464,866	539,006
Marketing expenses		(2,040)	(3,737)
Occupancy expenses		(38,580)	(35,019)
Administration expenses		(422,073)	(433,187)
		-----	-----
Surplus from ordinary activities before income tax expense	3	2,173	67,063
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-	-
		-----	-----
<b>Net surplus from ordinary activities after income tax expense</b>		<b>2,173</b> =====	<b>67,063</b> =====

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>2008</u> \$	<u>2007</u> \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	4	317,086	317,929
Receivables	5	67,564	59,122
		-----	-----
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		384,650	377,051
		-----	-----
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and Equipment	6	44,505	22,117
		-----	-----
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		44,505	22,117
		-----	-----
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		429,155	399,168
		-----	-----
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors and Borrowing	7	136,104	91,306
Provisions	8	3,771	8,317
		-----	-----
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		139,875	99,623
		-----	-----
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	8	-	12,438
		-----	-----
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	12,438
		-----	-----
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		139,875	112,061
		-----	-----
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		289,280	287,107
		=====	=====
<b>SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>			
General Funds	9	289,280	287,107
		-----	-----
<u>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</u>		289,280	287,107
		=====	=====

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW

ACN - 002 220 957

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME & EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008

	Retained Profits
	\$
Balance at 1 July 2006	220,044
Surplus for the year	67,063
	-----
Balance at 30 June 2007	287,107
Surplus for the year	2,173
	-----
Balance at 30 June 2008	289,280
	=====

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2008</u> \$	<u>2007</u> \$
<b><u>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u></b>			
Receipts from Customers		456,424	518,706
Payments to suppliers and employees		(442,184)	(537,054)
Interest Received		15,578	13,823
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	14b)	----- 29,818 -----	----- (4,525) -----
<b><u>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</u></b>			
Payment for plant & equipment		(30,661)	(1,050)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		----- (30,661) -----	----- (1,050) -----
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		(843)	(5,575)
Cash at beginning of year		317,929	323,504
<b>CASH AT END OF YEAR</b>	14a)	----- 317,086 =====	----- 317,929 =====

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

**1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Principal accounting policies adopted by the Professional Teachers' Council, NSW to assist in a general understanding of these financial reports.

a) **Basis of Preparation**

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporation Act 2001, and the following applicable Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Interpretations:

AASB 101:	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107:	Cash Flow Statements
AASB 108:	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 110:	Events Occurring after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB 1031:	Materiality

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost and except where stated do not take into account current valuation of non-current assets. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year.

b) **Depreciation**

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the prime cost method.

c) **Employee Entitlements**

The amount expected to be paid to employees for their pro-rata entitlements to annual leave is accrued annually at current wage rates.

d) **Income Tax**

The directors of the company have determined that the company is exempt from income tax.

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

**1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT.)**

**e) Operating Revenue**

Operating revenue includes secretarial services, income, and Department of Education Grants, as and when they are applied against relevant expenditure.

**f) Comparative Figures**

Where necessary comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in the current financial year.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
<b>2. OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
Capitations Received	86,546	80,434
Secretarial Services	60,476	92,395
Interest Received	15,578	13,823
Other Income	61,506	80,232
Grants Received	240,760	272,122
	-----	-----
	464,866	539,006
	=====	=====

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
<b>3. OPERATING SURPLUS</b>		
<b>(i) Operating Surplus before income tax has been determined after:</b>		
<b>Crediting:</b>		
- Interest Attributable to Other Persons	15,578	13,823
- Provision for Employee Entitlements	16,984	-
<b>Charging as Expenses:</b>		
- Depreciation on Plant and Equipment	8,273	11,033
- Provision for Employee Entitlements	-	8,659
<b>(ii) Auditors' Remuneration:</b>		
<b>Amounts received or due and receivable by the auditors for:</b>		
Auditing the accounts	3,000	3,000
Other services	6,418	5,500
<b>4. CASH</b>		
Cash on Hand	200	96
Cash at Bank	316,886	317,833
	-----	-----
	317,086	317,929
	=====	=====

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
<b>5. RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade Debtors	69,364	60,626
Less: Provision for Doubtful Debts	2,000	1,800
	-----	-----
	67,364	58,826
Other Debtors	200	200
GST Refundable	-	96
	-----	-----
	67,564	59,122
	=====	=====
<b>6. PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>		
Office Equipment & Furniture At Cost	186,437	163,270
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	149,378	141,153
	-----	-----
	37,059	22,117
	-----	-----
Building Improvements At Cost	33,059	25,565
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	25,613	25,565
	-----	-----
	7,446	-
	-----	-----
	44,505	22,117
	=====	=====

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
<b>7. CREDITORS AND BORROWING</b>		
Trade Creditors	63,791	35,211
Mastercard	2,123	3,616
Government Grants not Expended in 2002, but Committed for Expenditure	-	372
Government Grants not Expended in 2003, but Committed for Expenditure	-	5
Government Grants not Expended in 2006, but Committed for Expenditure	-	209
Government Grants not Expended in 2008, but Committed for Expenditure	39,788	-
Teaching Australia Project	4,661	35,201
AJCPTA – NVEF Project	-	3,727
AGQTP PD Activities 2007	-	10,105
AGQTP Co-ordination Project 2007	-	2,860
AGQTP Co-ordination Project 2008	3,125	-
GST Payable	2,713	-
PAYG Withheld Payable	19,903	-
	-----	-----
	136,104	91,306
	=====	=====
<b>8. PROVISIONS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Employee Entitlements	3,771	8,317
	=====	=====
<b>Non Current</b>		
Employee Entitlements	-	12,438
	=====	=====
<b>9. GENERAL FUNDS</b>		

The Professional Teachers' Council, NSW is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. No share capital is defined in the Memorandum & Articles. All members of the company are limited to a guarantee of \$100 per member in the event of a deficiency in a winding up.

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
<b>10. REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR</b>		
Auditors Fees	3,000	3,000
Other Services Provided by Auditor	6,418	5,500
	-----	-----
	9,418	8,500
	=====	=====

**11. RELATED PARTIES**

Directors

The names of persons who were directors of the company at any time during the financial year are as follows:

Judith Anderson	Glenda Johnstone	Christine Preston
Matthew Bentley	Ann Kershaw	Nerina Pretlove
Karen Buck	Anne Marie Lim	James Richardson
Susan Gazis	Dennis Mootz	Dan Riley
Bronwyn Hession	Meg Pickup	James Scott
Ailsa Holmes-Walker	Anne Power	Suzanne Ziems

No director received any remuneration during the financial year.

**12. SUPERANNUATION COMMITMENTS**

A superannuation plan has been established by the company for the provision of benefits to employees on retirement, death or disability. Benefits provided under the plan are based on contributions for each employee.

**13. FINANCIAL REPORTING BY SEGMENTS**

The company acts as a co-ordination and consultancy body for professional teachers associations in New South Wales.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW

ACN - 002 220 957

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
<b>14. CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
a) <b>Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash on hand	317,086	317,929
	=====	=====
b) <b>Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit from ordinary activities after income tax</b>		
Surplus from ordinary activities after income tax	2,173	67,063
Non-cash flows in profit from ordinary activities		
Depreciation	8,273	11,033
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(8,442)	(20,300)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	44,798	(70,981)
Increase/(decrease) in provision	(16,984)	8,660
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS</b>	----- 29,818 =====	----- (4,525) =====

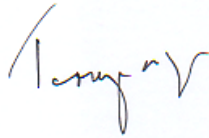
**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION**  
**UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001**  
**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2008 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirement as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



**TERRENCE E. GIBBS**  
**Company Auditor**

Date: 17 October 2008

5th Floor  
20-24 Wentworth Street  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**Scope**

I have audited the attached financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Professional Teachers' Council, NSW for the year ended 30 June 2008. The entity's directors are responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion to the members of Professional Teachers' Council, NSW. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting requirements under the Corporations Act 2001. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the entity's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

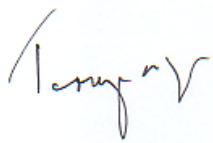
**Independence**

In conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

## **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report of Professional Teachers' Council, NSW is in accordance with:

- a) the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the Professional Teachers' Council, NSW's financial position as at 30 June 2008 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
  - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia to the extent described in Note 1 and complying with the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia to the extent described in Note 1.



**TERRENCE E. GIBBS**  
**Company Auditor**

Date: 17 October 2008

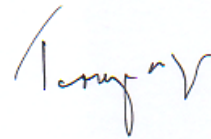
5th Floor  
20-24 Wentworth Street  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

We have prepared the accompanying Income & Expenditure Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 from the books and records of the Association and other information provided by the employees of the Association exclusively for the use and benefit of the Association its Directors & Members. Under the terms of our engagement we have not audited the Income & Expenditure Statements.



**T.E. GIBBS & CO PTY. LIMITED**  
**Public Accountants & Company Auditors**

**Terrence E. Gibbs**

Date: 17 October 2008

5th Floor  
20-24 Wentworth Street  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

<b>INCOME</b>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
Membership Fees	86,546	80,434
Secretariat	60,476	92,395
Professional Development	-	2,954
Rental Income	25,378	20,240
Presidents Dinner	2,186	1,773
PTC Conference	-	27,882
PTC HSC Student Days	-	7,841
AGQTP Mentor Workshop	-	318
Communication Workshop	1,241	2,936
Copyright Income	2,120	-
Grant Allocated to Fixed Assets	5,499	-
Miscellaneous Income	292	2,869
Other Extraordinary Income	15,540	-
Interest Received	15,578	13,823
CC - Association Room Hire	6,347	8,299
CC - External Room Hire	2,020	2,195
CC - Cleaning	250	845
CC - Catering	383	1,980
CC - Equipment Hire	250	100
Grant - Org. - Admin	33,477	32,596
Grant - Org - Ministerial	11,654	11,348
Grant - Org - Printing	31,322	30,500
Grant - Org - SMS/Postage	31,322	30,500
Grant - Org - Telephone	5,784	5,632
Grant - Org - Grant Jnt Mail	32,186	30,920
Grant - Assoc - Printing	47,508	65,313
Grant - Assoc - SMS/Postage	47,507	65,313
	-----	-----
	464,866	539,006
	-----	-----
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising & Promotion	2,040	3,737
Audit/Accounting Fees	9,418	8,500
Bad Debts	-	828
Bank Fees	1,126	1,228
Bookkeeping	27,032	13,671
Depreciation	7,896	7,176
Doubtful Debts	200	-
Filing Fees	40	40
Subscription	2,261	1,382
Internet/Email	2,349	3,185
Telephone/Fax	6,442	9,767
Teleconference	676	447
Computer Software	1,671	433

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
Equipment Purchases	485	180
Equipment R & M	5,298	6,768
Photocopier Service	930	844
Accrued Leave	11,838	16,414
Contractors	350	2,166
Staff Amenities	1,938	1,929
Staff Training	273	540
Superannuation	13,572	5,541
Wages & Salaries	131,510	90,799
Workers Compensation	1,157	1,203
Trainee	687	6,025
Recruitment Fees	5,350	-
Cleaning	25,801	26,159
Courier	3,231	3,324
Electricity	5,978	4,780
Gardens & Lawns	645	470
Insurance	2,360	4,562
Incentives	-	773
Mailhouse Expenses	5,563	5,789
Office Supplies	2,996	906
Postage	9,375	22,781
Printing	8,468	21,763
Repairs & Maintenance	5,140	2,501
Security	1,015	1,110
Stationery	521	1,579
Conference - Travel	6,806	3,761
Conference - Accommodation	1,162	148
Conference - Venue Hire	-	4,091
Conference - Equipment Hire	540	987
Conference - Catering Costs	3,509	24,092
Conference - Presenters Costs	2,000	54
Conference - Awards	-	1,457
Grant - Org. - Admin	265	4,758
Grant - Org - Ministerial	450	3,127
Grant - Org - Printing	12,708	24,436
Grant - Org - SMS/Postage	25,111	24,967
Grant - Org - Grant Jnt Mail	7,242	9,992
Grant - Assoc - Printing	84,457	81,290
Grant - Assoc - SMS/Postage	12,811	9,483
	-----	-----
	462,693	471,943
	-----	-----
<b><u>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	2,173	67,063
	=====	=====



**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**ABBREVIATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Capitations	86,546	80,434
Secretarial Income	60,476	92,395
Conference Rooms - Hire	8,367	10,494
Interest Received	15,578	13,823
Catering	383	1,980
Association Office Rental	25,378	20,240
Professional Development	-	2,954
Other Income	27,378	44,564
Grants Received	240,760	272,122
	-----	-----
	464,866	539,006
	-----	-----
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accountancy	6,418	5,500
Audit Fees	3,000	3,000
Bad Debts	-	828
Bank Fees and Charges	1,126	1,228
Bookkeeping	27,032	13,671
Computer Expenses	1,671	433
Contractors	350	2,166
Couriers	3,231	3,324
Depreciation - Other	7,896	7,176
Doubtful Debts	200	-
Filing Fees	40	40
Forums	5,563	5,789
Insurance	2,360	4,562
Journals & Subscriptions	2,261	1,382

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' COUNCIL, NSW**

**ACN - 002 220 957**

**ABBREVIATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2008**

- 2 -

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	\$	\$
Light & Power	5,978	4,780
Long Service Leave	1,272	4,059
Maintenance & Cleaning of Grounds & Building	31,586	29,130
Office Supplies & Expenses	4,447	4,102
Postage	9,375	22,781
Professional Development	14,017	34,590
Promotion	2,040	3,737
Recruitment Fees	5,350	-
Repairs & Maintenance of Equipment	5,783	6,948
Salaries - Ordinary	142,076	103,154
Secretariat Expenses	8,468	21,763
Security	1,015	1,110
Staff Amenities	2,211	2,469
Superannuation	13,572	5,541
Telephone	9,467	13,399
Traineeship	687	6,025
Workers Compensation	1,157	1,203
Grant Expenses	143,044	158,053
	-----	-----
	462,693	471,943
	-----	-----
<b><u>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	2,173	67,063
	=====	=====

## Treasurer's Report 2008

For the year ending 30 June 2008

The Professional Teachers Council NSW operated at a net surplus of \$2,173. This is in contrast to a profit of \$67,063 in the previous trading period.

This reflects the investment in changes that have been made in the 2007-2008 period. These changes will have a positive influence on the PTC's finances in future years.

The modest surplus for the current financial year reflects the changes implemented in the last financial year. These initiatives resulted in the PTC being able to operate more efficiently in a range of areas.

The PTC has continued to provide a range of services to its member associations in the provision of secretariat support, printing and mail-outs to schools across the state.

PTC provides a range of secretariat services to member associations. After an investment in office equipment and the recruitment of new personnel, there has been an increase in the use of the PTC's secretariat services by member associations in the last few months of the financial year. This area of the PTC's operations is growing and reflects a growing confidence in the cost efficiency and quality of the services offered. It is expected that there will be increased revenue from this area in the near future.

The PTC has maintained its association with the AGQTP through the administration of NSW-funded projects.

As an overview, when the 2007/2008 financial year is compared to the previous financial year:

- Money in the bank (cheque account, investment account, petty cash, and association grants) is similar;
- Expenditure on improvements to the conference centre and the secretariat and administration areas increased in this period
- Capitation has increased in the current financial year.

The comparison of the 2007/2008 year compared to the previous year reveals the following:

	2007/2008	2006/2007
Secretariat	\$22,360	\$18,508
Administration	(\$31,774)	\$35,053
Conference Centre	(\$ 3,991)	(\$ 321)
Interest	\$15,578	\$13,823
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,173</b>	<b>\$ 67,063</b>

### Secretariat

The expenditure on office equipment, office furniture and the recruitment of new personnel has allowed the PTC to improve its services to member associations. The secretariat offers a clear set of services and a schedule of costs for these services. There has been an increase in the demand for the PTC's secretariat services in the last few months of the financial year.

Major changes in staff have had an impact on the activities of the secretariat and it is anticipated that this input will continue in the future.

### **Administration (PTC & member associations)**

There has been an increase in capitation revenue for the Professional Teachers Council. This made a significant contribution to income for administration. There was an increase in rental income for this financial year as PTC is now renting additional space to member associations. As expected the greatest administration expenditure was salaries and wages.

### **Conference Centre**

The rental income for the conference centres for the current financial year (\$8,367) is slightly less than that for the previous financial year (\$10,494). The PTC has commenced work on the technology upgrade of the Conference Centre. Cleaning and event set up services were reviewed and a new company has been engaged to undertake these services. Initial feedback indicates that this is working more efficiently and is far cheaper for associations.

### **Grants**

As in previous years not all money gained through grants has been expended. The amount for this financial year is \$39,788 compared with zero the previous financial year.

### **Interest**

The PTC has actively pursued better returns from available monies. Total income from interest for the 2007/08 financial year was \$15,578 compared with \$13,823 for the previous financial year.

### **2007/08 audit**

Mr Terry Gibbs of T.E Gibbs & Co. Pty. Ltd conducted the audit.

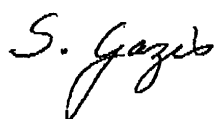
### **PTC Secretariat**

I wish to thank the PTC secretariat for the quality work they undertake on behalf of the PTC Board and the PTC's member associations.

I wish to also thank Ms Cathy Leonardi for her support in developing the PTC's financial reports and to Mr Kim Tsolakis for his leadership of the secretariat.

### **Recommendation:**

I move that  
the accounts for the 2007/2008 financial year be accepted.  
Mr Gibbs of T.E Gibbs & Co. Pty. Ltd continue as the auditor for the 2008/09 financial year.



Susan Gazis  
22 October 2008

## External Committee & PTC NSW Board Subcommittee Reports

## PTC Professional Learning Committee Report

The Professional Learning Committee's role was redefined this year to encompass the function of endorsing courses for continuing professional development for teachers maintaining their Professional Competence accreditation.

Initially, the Committee was to meet once per term to consider courses submitted by our professional teaching associations but it quickly became evident that this needed to be extended to twice per term. This allowed the Committee and Associations to consider courses with the optimum timeframe for promotion on the NSWIT website.

Whilst some associations have made a significant use of this function, others have yet to take advantage of the opportunity to have their courses registered through PTC. Following an evaluation of the process, PTC has refined its procedures and has made significant improvements to the proforma used to submit courses which has led to a reduction in the number of applications that required resubmission.

These changes and a promotional campaign across associations are expected to raise the number of submissions for endorsement in the coming year.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have given freely of their time and provided teachers with the opportunity to access quality professional learning from our teaching associations. In addition, thank you to the Secretariat in its provision of extensive support to the committee.



Nerina Pretlove  
Chair

## Professional Teachers' Council NSW 2008 Events

The Professional Teachers' Council NSW (PTC) held a number of successful events at the PTC Conference Centre throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of these events:

- (i) **Information and discussion session on the AGQTP Grant Submission**  
**Processes:** On Monday 4 February PTC NSW hosted an information session on the AGQTP Grant Submission Processes. This event was also facilitated by DET and provided PTC member associations with a comprehensive guide to applying for funding their association professional development project for an amount of up to \$20,000.
- (ii) **Information and discussion session on Taxation for Not-For-Profit**  
**Organisations:** This invaluable information session was held on Wednesday 19 March and was facilitated by Mr. Terry Gibbs of T.E. Gibbs & Co. Terry divided the evening into two productive and highly beneficial sections. The first session was dedicated to informing PTC member associations of new developments and changes affecting not-for-profit organisations. The second session provided an opportunity for member associations to ask questions and/or clarify specific issues relevant to their association. The event was very well attended with member associations finding both sessions most valuable.
- (iii) **Information and discussion session on Copyright and Publishing for Not-For-Profit Organisations:**  
On Wednesday 9 April, Ms. Zoe Rodriguez from Copyright Agency Limited provided PTC member associations with an update on the Copyright Act and outlined how the current changes could potentially impact on not-for-profit organisations. Member associations engaged in the open forum discussion that followed with Ms. Rodriguez defining and introducing additional information to explain and clarify the legal position for not-for-profit organisations. Member associations attending evaluated the event as most productive and highly beneficial.
- (iv) **Information session by the Dr. John Bennett – General Manager, NSW Board of Studies (BOS) on the proposed changes to the HSC Examination and Assessment:**  
On Tuesday 16 September PTC member associations were provided with an opportunity to hear Dr. John Bennett and his team of BOS officers, outline the proposed changes to the current HSC Examination and Assessment which included the BOS rationale underpinning the (proposed) changes. A lively and challenging discussion followed this presentation.  
The discussion session proved most valuable and provided all associations with a better understanding of the overall effect these proposed changes would have across all subject areas. PTC member associations applauded the opportunity to meet as a group of educators to express their concerns on this vitally important issue.

(v) **Information session by the Deputy-Director of Education - Strategic Management and Planning – DET:**

PTC NSW invited Ms. L. Loble, Deputy Director-General, Strategic Planning and Regulation, NSW Department of Education and Training, to speak with PTC member associations on: 'how much support is needed to educate each child?', as identified in the MCEETYA guidelines. Ms. Loble delivered this presentation on Tuesday 23 September at the PTC Conference Centre. Ms. Loble identified the following areas as the focus of her presentation:

(1) New Commonwealth/State funding relationship (COAG)

(2) Policy directions under the new funding arrangements (e.g. teacher quality, low SES schools communities).

The first part of the presentation was followed by a Q & A session where a number of issues were raised with regard to current funding and the impact of COAG on future funding structures. Those in attendance on the evening were grateful for an opportunity to raise such significant issues with the Deputy-Director of Education.

(vi) **Professional Development and Adult Learning Course:**

This course was a two part series of *Adult Education Workshops* which examined the current educational context and the role of professional development. Specifically the current professional development standards and what these require of (a) individual teachers, and (b) educational leaders/managers. The course explored the challenges in providing leadership for teachers' professional development as adult learners and provided a transition through adult centered principles of learning.

The course consisted of 2x3 hour information workshop sessions which were held on Saturday 13 September and Saturday 18 October between 1.30 – 4.30pm. The final session examined the findings of the research project / task set for the course. Participants who completed the research project component were highly complementary of the effectiveness of the structure of the course as the practical application of the information through the project brought together all the aspects presented during the course.

This course has been submitted to the NSW Institute of Teachers as an endorsed course for teachers undertaking the Accreditation at Professional Accomplishment and Accreditation at Professional Leadership.

(vii) **2008 Presidents' Dinner**

The 14th annual Presidents' Dinner was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Apprentice Restaurant, School of Hospitality, Ultimo College – TAFE. The evening was well supported by the Presidents of the Professional Teachers' Council NSW Member Associations and provided an excellent opportunity for the profession to meet and develop professional ties with the other member associations in a pleasant social setting. The Apprentice Restaurant proved to be a most impressive venue in every respect. The staff and students provided superb food, wine and service that would rival many restaurants in Sydney. Our special thanks to the

supervising teachers, the Commercial Cookery Certificate III apprentices and the Diploma of Hospitality Stage One students.

Ms Karen Buck, President of the Professional Teachers' Council NSW presented the Welcome to Country prior to welcoming all Presidents of member associations, dignitaries and guests attending this important dinner event. During her speech Karen acknowledged the vital role that associations play in the professional development and support of teachers, particularly at a time of such considerable change. In her concluding comments Karen made mention of the fact that during the process of providing essential professional development, which ensures and maintains excellence in education across all sectors in NSW, the member associations also demonstrate a model of exemplary leadership and in a volunteer capacity – true leadership in action. At the conclusion of her speech Karen introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Associate Professor Ilana Snyder.

Assoc. Professor Ilana Snyder is currently a member of the Faculty of Education at Monash University, Melbourne. Ilana's academic career began with a doctoral study which investigated the impact of word processors on students' writing. Building on that early study, her research has focused on identifying the changes to social and cultural practices when digital technologies are used in school and out-of-school settings. Of particular interest to Ilana have been the connections between literacy, technology and disadvantage. Ilana's principal research goal is to improve our understanding of how the use of information and communication technologies in a range of settings affects literacy, language and learning. Ilana provided the evening with insight into the ideas and research underpinning her recent writings in her book 'Literacy Wars', a publication which has sparked some considerable debate in the world of education.

Ms. Sue Gazis spoke on behalf of the Board of the Professional Teachers' Council (NSW) and Member Associations to thank Assoc. Professor Ilana Snyder for her highly informative and thought provoking presentation and for her contribution to what was a most positive and enjoyable evening for all.

Kim Tsolakis  
Executive Officer  
Professional Teachers' Council NSW

# National Curriculum Board (INCB) Report

**Summary report on 'Into the Future' – Interim National Curriculum Board (INCB) Melbourne Forum held on June 27, 2008 and the National Curriculum Board Consultation Forum Sydney held on 15 September, 2008.**

## **Melbourne Forum Introduction**

The event marked the beginning of the Interim National Curriculum Board's (INCB) consultation on national curriculum. It was well-organised with over two hundred (200) participants from all stakeholder groups in attendance, including a good representation of practising teachers. The INCB website was launched [www.ncb.org.au](http://www.ncb.org.au) on the day of the forum. Though in its early stages of development it will increasingly provide a useful means of tracking national curriculum developments as well as provide a discussion board facility.

## **The Forum Discussion Paper**

This significant paper is available from the site and contains the key focus questions that forum workshop sessions addressed. Importantly Attachment 3 in the paper contains the 'Remit for the Interim National Curriculum Board', i.e. the 'non-negotiables' for the INCB. In preparation for the forum participants were also referred to the *Federalist Paper 2: The Future of Schooling in Australia (COAF)*.

## **Forum Keynotes:**

- (a) Barry McGaw: *Introduction* – provided the scope of the Interim INCB's work
- (b) Chris Wardlaw, Deputy Secretary, Education Bureau Hong Kong : *Shaping the student of the future*– this presentation is on the INCB website.
- (c) Workshop session feedback: should be on the website. INCB members chaired these sessions.

## **Barry McGaw comments:**

- there is a need to distinguish between what is given ( the remit) and what is up for discussion
- the revision of the National Goals of Schooling is a separate project but Barry McGaw, Dr Brian Croke and Tony Mackay are part of that process - the work of the INCB should influence the national goals.
- Term 'world's best curriculum' is being used rather than 'world class curriculum'
- The INCB seeks ongoing feedback via the website
- Terminology is an issue – subjects, disciplines, learning areas etc

## **Chris Wardlaw comments:**

NB: Review his presentation on the website.

A summary of comments of significance:

- 'Context is everything but you can drown in your own context' ( i.e. arguing for local flexibility – but balance)
- 'investment' is the most suitable term when referring to funding
- reform should be based on agreed principles
- Hong Kong's agreed principles:
  - what is worth learning
  - how students learn and how teachers teach
  - how to know that students have learnt
  - reform should be based on agreed principles
- Students who are good at rote learning can also be good at problem solving
- moving from the 'learning to read' stage to the 'reading to learn' stage
- students may be getting good results but may have low self-efficacy and self-esteem
- views of knowledge are changing
- there is a need to align curriculum, pedagogy and assessment

- HK targeted Professional Development
- HK identified → creativity, communication, critical thinking, values
- Simple, clear, flexible delivery
- reform needs to be well resourced – to ensure that the gap between intentions and implementation is closed.

**Issues raised in the workshops – a full and complete copy of the INCB summary of issues raised in the workshops is available on the website**

The Forum groups discussed approaches to developing National Curriculum including content, achievement standards, National Curriculum and cross curriculum area, and National Curriculum development, consultation and engagement processes.

Three opportunities were provided to break into groups to discuss focus questions provided. INCB Board Members were assigned to be facilitators of the groups. Staff from the Curriculum Directorate of the Victorian Education Department assisted as scribes to the groups. The groups were quite large and extremely diverse which made free and open discussion quite limited. Findings were then taken back to the plenary session. Tony McKay (Deputy Chair – INCB) acted as the Forum facilitator.

1. The 'discipline' versus 'integration' struggle was evident in the workshops; some backlash re: English, Maths, Science and History Phase 1 - and Geography, Languages Phase 2
2. This must be about all students
3. The rationale for the national curriculum must be strong. There is a real need to address: What will it deliver? Why are we doing this? What will the narrative say?
4. We do not have a national understanding of all the assessment and reporting terminology – content standards, performance standards, achievement standards
5. What lessons did we learn from previous national curriculum efforts? e.g. VET. Teacher involvement is crucial – a lack of consultation with teachers will ensure failure
6. 'Buy-in' from principals is important
7. Curriculum needs to be 'futures oriented'
8. Who will be delivering this curriculum?
9. Is it curriculum 'frameworks' we need?
10. Primary may be a bigger challenge than secondary although Years 11 and 12 are the biggest challenge – also acknowledged by Chris Wardlaw
11. Many stakeholder interests presented – making resolution difficult
12. The National Goals need to be communicate the aspirations that frames what is developed
13. What place do existing testing regimes – TIMMS etc – have in this curriculum development process? Are we to assume that these tests are valid and reliable and embody standards that should be adopted?
14. What is the 'new knowledge'?
15. What is core and what is elective must be clearly defined

**Observations in conclusion:**

This was a good '*beginning*' conversation.

The remit is important.

The intention to consult is genuine but the timelines are difficult.

There seemed to be some disconnect between what the INCB will deliver and what critical factors will determine whether the objectives of the curriculum are achieved.

The National Goals are critical – and should guide the detail of the national curriculum.

The main issue as I saw it was that any discussion about critical issues during the forum tended to focus on matters that are the responsibility of the state and territories and jurisdictions, i.e. implementation issues and professional learning.

A number of people were invited to speak/comment; including Ian Smyth (AJCPTA), Prof Paul Brock...

A highlight however was Professor Alan Luke (Queensland University of Technology) who gave an impressive, impassioned address towards the end of the forum in which he clearly identified some of the mistakes of the past with previous iterations of curriculum, both state and national. He too gave strong support to the message about Curriculum; Pedagogy and Assessment being inextricably linked and that the INCB will at their peril ignore that fact and challenged the board to be inclusive of these three elements even if they are outside the scope of the brief.

An excellent experience – however there needs to be on-going analysis of the developments as there exists a need for careful planning of evaluation for a major project:

- evaluation of the curriculum development process
- evaluation of stages in implementation and preparation of teachers
- evaluation of impact/effectiveness (other than just via PISA and TIMMS).

### **Sydney Forum Introduction**

Invitations to Professional Teaching Associations were distributed through the NSW Board of Studies. A limited number of Professional Teaching Associations were invited at the exclusion of many. The Professional Teachers' Council NSW (PTC) has forty six member associations, of which twelve (12) were invited to attend the Sydney Forum. PTC NSW has written to the Deputy Prime Minister in her role as Federal Minister for Education, Employment and Work Relations, Chair of the National Curriculum Board, the NSW Minister for Education, NSW Board of Studies and Mr. T. Alegounarias, NSW representative to the NCB, to express its concern regarding this matter of exclusion. The timeframe for submission of nominations was unrealistic given that the Professional Teachers' Council NSW was given four (4) days to contact member associations and provide them with the information necessary for them to arrange for their preferred nominee to attend. This also involved the nominee arranging release time from their place of employment at a difficult time in Term 3. This timeframe did not consider the impact on schools and students.

Two students (one female Year 12 student and one male Year 9 student) from two independent Sydney metropolitan schools were invited to participate in a discussion panel at the conclusion of the Discussion Workshop Sessions. One student qualified any comments he made by informing the forum that he had been home-schooled until the beginning of his current year of study – being Year 9.

### **The Forum**

**Part 1:** An introduction to the NSW perspective was given by Dr. John Bennett, General Manager BOS who outlined the NSW position by emphasising the (high) quality of NSW curriculum and subsequent issues for the NCB if a national curriculum did not meet these standards. He described the consultation process(es) used over many years in the development of the NSW curriculum. However, while acknowledging the national-wide difficulties that exist and the need for change, Dr. Bennett emphasised the need for additional consultation before the draft writing process commenced in the curriculum areas of English, mathematics, science and history which has been scheduled to take place in November, 2008.

**Part 2:** Prof. Barry McGaw, Chair Interim Committee National Curriculum Board indicated in his opening address that, to ensure its success, a national curriculum would have to take the best of all current practice throughout Australia. He outlined the process and timeframe for the writing of the framing papers / draft documents as November 2008. These papers will advise the NCB. Prof McGaw also identified the completion date for a national curriculum as 2010. When questioned on choice of subjects for inclusion Prof. McGaw stated that, as they were part of Kevin Rudd's election promises, they were given to the INCB.

During his presentation Prof. McGaw quoted PISA scores relating to Australia from 2000-2006. These showed little variation in our low and middle range of scores; however they indicated a decline in our top level range of scores. The impact of this for Australia was a decline in our global position from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> position. Research presented suggested that, although our top level students performed well in Science, they did not like the subject and did not pursue science as a preferred area of study post compulsory levels of study. Prof. McGaw suggested that this may have been as a result of the teaching of the subject. Other members of the forum suggested that it could have been as a result of a shift in attitude in society toward the areas related to business.

### **Discussion workshop(s) on: Content and Achieving Standards.**

#### **1. Content**

The workshop(s) comprised of personnel from NSW Board of Studies, NSW Institute of Teachers, University Lecturers (NSW), Catholic Education, AIS, Principals and Teachers. It is proposed by the NCB that the implementation of a national curriculum take place in 2011. Concern was raised by this timeframe and that this could impact on the development of the curriculum areas as well as the professional development aspect for teachers expected to implement it. It was suggested that a trialling of any proposed Curriculum be undertaken by a group of schools to provide essential feedback prior to full implementation.

The discussion centred on establishing a common understanding of what actually content is comprised of in the subjects as identified by the NCB as some subjects have content that is crucial (e.g.) both maths and science differ from English and history.

It was suggested that a national curriculum could be tied to Australian culture and identity. The student body represented at the forum (see notes above) requested that the repetition of content be avoided and that each Stage should be aware of the content in other Stages in the NSW curriculum. The same students suggested that grammar should be taught. The example was used by one student who had studied overseas that the students studying English in Italy had a far greater understanding of English grammar than her and that this made her feel embarrassed. Understandably, there was no discussion by the students of the perceived (or otherwise) advantage(s) of having a comprehensive knowledge of grammar.

A similar concern to the issue raised at the Melbourne Forum re: the impact on Years 11 and 12. (refer to the notes from the C. Wardlaw presentation.

#### **2. Achievement Standards**

Discussion centred on the need for a clear understanding and articulation by the NCB of the purpose of/for standards; are they for a national purpose: reporting to parents / employers... etc. Further, the message was clear from participants that these must demonstrate performance of **understanding** rather than just testing. If not there could be a tendency for schools to distort the results by focussing on the test rather than developing life long learning strategies. Concern was also raised about the viability of the Extension English Project undertaken by students in NSW. The BOS representatives considered this course to be of the highest quality in way it demonstrates a deep understanding of student learning over a twelve month period.

There was considerable discussion around the appointment by the NCB of a literacy expert to lead the development of the English curriculum for the national curriculum.

Student representatives expressed their concern over the changes to the marking of the PIP project from external assessment to internal marking with a reduced weighting. The proposed change would also include an increase in the formal written examination at HSC level to a three (3) hour examination. Dr. John Bennett (BOS) responded by outlining the purpose of the designed is to reduce student stress levels. Student challenged the notion that a three (3) hour examination was less stressful and more educationally beneficial than planning and working on their own learning over an extended period of time.

***Plenary Panel – A summary***

**Facilitated by Tony Mackay - Deputy Chair, NCB**

The NSW BOS reiterated position regarding primacy of NSW curriculum.

The Student representatives said pressure of crowded curriculum resulted in students being forced to regurgitate knowledge rather than developing deep understanding. Students requested that the NCB consider a curriculum that is reduced and allows for more in-depth study. The issue of technology is used by students in their writing and thinking (i.e.) on to a computer. However, all examinations are hand written.

Prof. McGaw promised to make National Curriculum one that NSW would not have difficulty accepting. He categorically ruled out any moves to reduce the role of content in the curriculum; stating it was “crucial”.

## PTC Board Awards Subcommittee Report

### Meg Pickup

A most successful Annual Presentation Evening was held at Professional Teachers' Council (PTC) Conference Centre on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The Presentation Evening was well supported by teachers, education administrators, consultants and teacher educators, as it is an important opportunity to celebrate the work of teachers. Ms Karen Buck, President, Professional Teachers' Council NSW welcomed dignitaries, award recipients and guests to the Presentation Evening. Ms Clare McHugh, representing the Metro Local Aboriginal Land Council and provided the *Welcome to Country* as the Presentation Evening was taking place on Eora Land of the Gadigal People.

The Honourable John Della Bosca, Minister for Education and Training, was enthusiastic in his support of the evening. He underlined contemporary educational issues and acknowledged the important work of teachers. He then presented the PTC Media Awards. These awards are presented to people in the media who promote education, teachers and teaching in NSW. The recipient of the Major Media Award was Mr Richard Aedy, *Life Matters*, *ABC Radio National*. *Life Matters* examined a number of education issues in the previous 12 months. The highlight was an interview with John Ralston Saul on public education. Tony Pritchard, *WIN Regional Television Wagga Wagga*, was the recipient of the Regional Media Award. Mr Pritchard was nominated by Wagga Wagga High School for his balanced and sensitive news report on refugee students that was aired during Refugee Week.

The Exceptional Service Award is presented to people for their distinguished service over a significant period of time to the Professional Teachers' Council, member professional associations and education in NSW. The Hon. John Della Bosca presented these awards. The recipients were:

- Professor Patrick Duigan, Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) NSW
- Ms Jenny Lewis, Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) NSW
- Ms Judy King, Principal, Riverside Girls' High School.

The voluntary work of teachers through leadership positions on the executives and boards of professional teachers' associations is recognised through the Outstanding Professional Service Awards. The Hon. John Della Bosca presented the awards to:

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Robert Jackson	Association for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages NSW Inc. – ATESOL NSW
Kathleen Rushton	Association for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages NSW Inc. – ATESOL NSW
Skye Everingham	Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (NSW) – ACHPER NSW
Ann McCormack	Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (NSW) – ACHPER NSW
Lynn Booth	Australian Guidance and Counselling Association (NSW) – AGCA
Julie Montague	Australian Society for Music Education NSW Chapter – ASME

Carolyn Cronan	Careers Advisers Association of NSW – CAA
John Kay	Careers Advisers Association of NSW – CAA
Ellen Sheerin	Computing Studies Teachers’ Association – CSTA
Mary Mooney	DRAMA NSW
Trish Harrington	Early Childhood Education Council of NSW – ECEC
Robyn Birchell	Educators of Deaf Students Association Inc. - EDSA
Michael Jones	English Teachers' Association of NSW – ETA
Louise DuVernet	Home Economics Institute of Australia (NSW Division) – HEIA
John Andrews	Legal Studies Association of NSW Inc. - LSA
Wayne Gleeson	Legal Studies Association of NSW Inc. - LSA
Grant Beard	Mathematical Association of NSW Inc. - MANSW
Sue Thomson	Mathematical Association of NSW Inc. - MANSW
Ian Baird	NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers - NSWAAAT
Jenny Vatovec	NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Teachers’ Association - PDHPETA
Adele Dye	Orff Schulwerk Association of NSW
Joy Lattin	School Administrative & Support Staff Professional Association (NSW) Inc. - SASSPA
Lindsay Swan	Society and Culture Association Inc – SCA
Dianne Young	Student Welfare and Personal Development Association of NSW - SWPDA
Margaret McMahon	Technology Educators Association of NSW – TEA
Lynda Peters	Technology Educators Association of NSW – TEA
Angela Stavropoulos	Technology in Primary Schools Inc. - TiPS

The Hon John Della Bosca then presented certificates of Appreciation to PTC Member Associations. These certificates were presented in recognition of the valuable voluntary contribution made by professional teacher associations to the quality of education in NSW, their support for students and for professional colleagues.

The evening concluded with an informal supper that enabled dignitaries, award recipients and guests to acknowledge and celebrate the valuable work of professional associations.