

---

**News in Brief – July 2018**

---



## President's Report



Welcome to the first APTA News in Brief for 2018!

Professional associations across the country have been busy preparing and running learning events, responding to AITSL's Review of Teacher Registration and examining the *Through Growth to Achievement Report*.

If you would like to provide a brief article (150 words) about one of your associations' initiatives or events, you are welcome to forward your article (and photos with permissions) to APTA ([contactus@apta.edu.au](mailto:contactus@apta.edu.au)).

### APTA Adobe Connect consultation on the Review of Teacher Registration

Thank you to the associations who participated in the APTA Adobe Connect consultation with AITSL on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Anita Torr and Catherine Russo from AITSL, Dr Peter Lind, expert panel review member (Registrar of the Teachers Registration Board of South Australia) consulted with members who participated in the session. Some issues raised during the session:

- support for casual relief teachers
- renewal and maintenance requirements
- professional learning – Associations run professional learning and networking in regional areas. Government funding support is needed for associations to scale up support provided to teachers, especially for subject-based learning and for teachers in regional and remote areas
- Interest in South Australian Teacher Registration Board's teacher scholarship initiative for teachers to attend professional learning delivered by associations
- need for stronger continual development of subject discipline
- early childhood teachers in single centres have difficulty meeting the higher level descriptors (HALT certification), unless they are volunteering with their associations or networks.

### Through Growth to Achievement: Report of the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools

The Review Panel for the *Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools* (the Review) delivered its final report to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP and Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, on 28 March 2018.

A copy of the final report, **Through Growth to Achievement** can be found here.

A copy of the 2017 APTA response can be found here.

### Promote your association professional learning events

As a member of an APTA member joint council, you are able to promote your professional learning events through the APTA events calendar.

You are able to list your professional learning on the Professional Learning Calendar by emailing APTA ([contactus@apta.edu.au](mailto:contactus@apta.edu.au)) and providing the following information:

1. Title of course
2. Duration of course
3. Commencement time and date
4. End time and date of course
5. Description of course
6. Indicate whether face to face, online or blended
7. Venue
8. URL for course registration details.

APTA calendar events are also promoted through APTA's social media channels.

Susan Gazis AM

President, APTA

## **Council of Education Associations of South Australia (CEASA)**



Over a quarter of our learning year has passed and our association members have been very active in the SA educator community - driving innovation and improvement by encouraging all educators to associate professionally with and for each other. So many learning events and resources being generated and shared – a great credit to our Association teams!

CEASA too has had a very positive start to the year thanks to our fantastic staff team and all the strategic and operational work they are doing to provide an effective service. It has been terrific to catch up with many of our associations at our PL1 learning events this term as we have looked to build on the success of our Political forum in February through our "post-election" discussions and our governance support groups.

So much more to do and think about - what a positive impact we are going to have as we continue to "associate" together!

## Network of Educational Associations of Tasmania, Inc. (NEAT)

### Meeting the Minister



All member associations and teacher networks across the government and non-government sectors in Tasmania were invited to meet with the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff, MP, Minister for Education and Training [pictured] on Monday May 31st to discuss current and future strategic priorities for Tasmania. Approximately 35 teachers, system and school/college leaders engaged in discussions with the Minister around the implementation of the new legislative frameworks including the Education Regulations, 2017 for school attendance; workforce challenges and the increase in teachers in school and college staffing; the increasing number of students attaining a Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) as part of the strategy for all learners to have access to high quality education through greater retention, attainment and engagement; the new state-wide vision for TAFE in the context of new workforce needs and rolling out reforms in 2020; the VEL and Career Education unit and the “Anything can happen” promotion for retention strategies; the Early Years’ strategies and the community response and success of strategic programs such as LIFT (Learning in Families Together). Meeting participants representing their particular networks or member associations discussed the importance of specialist teachers, e.g. Music, Art, Language, OE, Literacy and Library areas for quality education outcomes and other global success strategies around student wellbeing and behaviour management.

### NEAT AGM

Dr Jennifer Buckingham, Senior Research Fellow and Director of FIVE from FIVE project, The Centre for Independent Studies [www.cis.org.au] will address member associations on Tuesday, 26 June prior to the AGM, at the RYCT venue. Dr Buckingham is a Board member of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL); Associate Investigator, Centre for Cognition and Its Disorders (CCD), and Macquarie University Council member, Learning Difficulties Australia (LDA). The AGM 2018 is planned for Tuesday 26 June at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay Hobart at 6.00pm



## Professional Teachers’ Association of the Northern Territory



The [Professional Teachers’ Association of the Northern Territory](#) (PTANT) has had a busy start to the year. We are pleased to be completing goals of the [PTANT 2018 Strategic Plan](#) and working towards further achievements in semester 2. PTANT held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April and as a result elected a full [Executive Committee](#). The first round of grants saw a record number of applications received and we have been hosting information and networking meetings with member associations to strengthen capacity through sharing information and strategies.



The PTANT 2018 Strategic Plan was approved at the AGM highlighting PTANT's continuing work in creating and maintaining productive partnerships with organisations that benefit our associations. Formal conversations with Charles Darwin University (CDU) about how to strengthen and possibly formalise our relationship provide exciting opportunities for greater association interaction with preservice teachers, professional learning opportunities and collaborative grant applications with our member associations.

PTANT hosted a grant application writing workshop for all member association committee members. Jo Robertson from Com.mu.ni.cate facilitated an engaging and relevant workshop exploring examples of grant application writing which generated thought provoking conversations for the ten member associations represented. Attendees shared strategies and challenges that associations have when planning professional learning, in particular in ensuring remote teachers have access to events. The attendees found the workshop and discussion extremely valuable and all walked away with new innovative ideas to implement when scoping and writing professional learning grant applications.

We look forward to a busy semester 2. In November we will host the biannual PTANT Awards and are busy securing a venue and planning for nomination submissions. Our Executive Officer will be attending [CONASTA67](#) in July to shadow the national event manager in order to gain skills essential for hosting CONASTA68 in Darwin 2019.

## ACT Council of Education Associations (COACTEA)



### Mini Expo

On Tuesday, April 10th, a variety of Professional Associations shared their expertise with Canberra's 4th Year Bachelor of Education students (Early Childhood/Primary and Primary) as part of their final Education Studies unit -Transition into the Profession. The library also came along to the Professional Learning Expo, providing access to a wide variety books and resources. With one eye on their current semester assessment obligations and the other on the upcoming final internship, pre-service teacher interest in professional reading and learning opportunities was high!

Each of the eleven associations represented at the Mini Expo provided us with information about conferences, resources and workshops to enhance pre-service teacher's knowledge, skills and capabilities in a variety of areas. These included Mathematics, Literacy, History, Special Education, Philosophy, Science, Information Technology, Modern Languages, Music, ATESOL and Drama. 4th Years were able to explore the benefits of joining a Professional Association as they moved around the displays. Each representative provided ideas and opportunities to assist pre-service teachers to demonstrate evidence of having achieved a variety of Graduate Standards. In fact, many of the students signed up on the day - a win-win for all concerned!

Thank you to the ACT Council of Education Associations (COACTEA) for adding to the excitement by supporting this worthwhile event through funding for food and lucky door prizes. If only I could offer this at every lecture – attendance would be 100%!

## Professional Teachers' Council NSW



PTC NSW has certainly hit the ground running in 2018! Late in 2017 we moved into new premises, now for a minimum of 5 years. The new facility has a greater capacity to support member associations as it has a variety of spaces to host events of a reasonable size. In the first 4 weeks of term we have already hosted a number of events including 110 participants at a NESA



meeting for members of the Professional Association for Learning Support (PALS).

### Minister's "Dance Card" 2018

It has been a mission of PTC NSW to engage with Minister Rod Stokes, NSW Minister for education, since he became NSW Minister of Education. We are extremely pleased to inform you that PTC NSW met with the Minister late in Term 4 2017. We had a very open conversation about the role of PTC NSW and that of the member associations we represent. The minister welcomed our comments and made very positive remarks about the important work of the professional teacher associations and of their increased importance to all teachers, because of the accreditation process in NSW. As a result of this initial meeting, the Minister has accepted our proposal to convene two meetings per year to discuss the work of the associations and the programs and priorities of the Minister. As part of the process, from time to time I will be asking for member feedback on a range of topics to present the views of members to the Minister and his advisors. A very positive step forward for all members!

### PTC NSW Website

During 2017 a new website for PTC NSW was built and tested. We have created a whole new look and feel to the site, which we hope all members will enjoy. The work of member associations is now a prominent part of the home page with several ways to further access each member associations. It is even more important to ensure that as many of your professional learning events are displayed for your members to view and register. Please ensure that when the secretariat asks for your semester calendar entries, all your events are provided and we will do the rest!

Now that the website is more user friendly, we would also like to ask that all member associations provide a link on each of your individual websites to PTC NSW. Our connection to all member associations assists support all teachers across all sectors of NSW.

### Semester 1 2018 Professional Learning Calendar now available

The PTC NSW semester 1, 2018 professional learning calendar has been distributed members via email. There is a wealth of quality PL from member associations included. Please ensure that your membership receive a copy from you! Our new look website also hosts the calendar [download](#) as a PDF.



## The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations



The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations (JCQTA) held its annual Presidents' Dinner on Thursday 15 February with over 30 people attending. The dinner focussed on the issue of teacher retention, particularly the retention of early career teachers.

In 2017 Doctor Donna Prendergast, Dean and Head of the School of Education and Professional Studies at Griffith University, delivered a presentation to JCQTA members about the problems facing young or newly graduated teachers; 20% of whom leave the profession in 5 years. This situation was attributed to a condition called "reality shock" where expectations pre-service meet the reality of a school placement. Doctor Prendergast made some suggestion as to how reality shock could be buffered. These included;

- More effective teacher education,
- More realistic expectations by young teachers,
- Seamless induction from university to school and
- Emphasis on developing teacher resilience and self-efficacy.

Amanda Briggs, representing BETA (Beginning and Emerging Teachers Association) addressed the dinner attendees and outlined how BETA supported early career teachers. BETA is a volunteer operated association that consists of Principals, Deputy Principals, Heads of Department and classroom teachers which offers quality professional development opportunities to teachers early in their career. This organisation hosts an annual conference in May where representatives from other professional teachers' associations can interact with BETA members. This is helpful for them to transition from BETA to subject or client specific teacher associations. BETA also supports schools in the provision of induction programs.

As an outcome of small group discussions at the dinner, the following issues relevant to early career teacher retention were identified;

- Pre-service education.
- Provision of induction programs,
- Geographic and professional isolation,
- Mentoring,
- Timetabling,
- Resourcing and
- Differentiation.

The attendees made suggestions to address these issues such as strengthening the relationship between professional associations and tertiary institutes, conducting an audit of existing induction programs in schools and asking early career teachers if mentoring is helpful to them. A table of the Issues, Questions relating to the issues and Suggestions has been sent to the Queensland Minister of Education and the Queensland College of Teachers.

JCQTA hope to work with ACEL in advocating for relevant PD and support for early career teachers.

Caroline Brooks

President JCQTA