



The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Ms P A Car MP
Member for Londonderry
PO Box 43
ST MARYS NSW 1790

MIN/21/38

Dear Ms ~~Car~~ *Prue*

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of the Professional Teachers' Council NSW (PTC) on 27 January 2021 regarding the changes to the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) process for endorsing teacher professional development (PD) providers and their courses. I apologise for the delay in responding

NESA's decision to change the way PD is regulated in NSW directly responds to NESA's internal review of processes for endorsement and to feedback from major stakeholders. This internal review found that major change was needed to ensure greater oversight of the value and quality of each individual course accredited by NESA.

Limiting NESA accreditation to courses in four priority areas that meet content criteria and evidence-based principles of effective professional learning is an essential step towards improving student and child learning outcomes across NSW. To make this change, it was necessary for NESA to cancel the endorsement of all existing providers and courses. This included the previous endorsement of the PTC.

Under the new requirements, providers will need to apply to NESA for accreditation of individual courses in the identified priority areas. However, only the three sector-wide organisations over which NESA has existing regulatory authority are Authorised Providers. Limiting the organisations with responsibility for assessing and accrediting their own courses on NESA's behalf to those listed in the new *Accreditation of Professional Development Courses Policy* fulfils the imperative of ensuring greater oversight of the value and quality of each individual course with NESA accreditation.

In December 2020, NESA established a process for previously endorsed providers to apply for interim accreditation of courses they deliver in two priority areas - Delivery and assessment of NSW Curriculum/Early Years Learning Framework; or Students/children with disability – that align to specific Standard Descriptors. Courses that meet the conditions for interim accreditation may be delivered up to 31 July 2021. This allows a continuous supply of PD for teachers while NESA works to develop new principles, criteria, application and assessment processes for NESA Accredited PD.

The PTC has been successful in a recent application for a small number of its previous courses to be accredited in this interim period.

NESA is currently developing principles and criteria for NESA Accredited PD in consultation with key stakeholders and all previously endorsed providers. On 23 February 2021, all providers were invited to complete a short online survey to provide feedback that will inform the development of principles, criteria and application process for NESA Accredited PD. When the new principles, criteria and application process have been finalised, all providers will be able to apply to have courses accredited in any of the four prescribed priority areas.

NESA staff continue to consult with the PTC along with other stakeholders and gave a commitment at a recent meeting of the PTC Executive to continued liaison with the PTC over the finalisation of draft criteria for course accreditation and plans to support the implementation of the new Policy.

Should the Professional Teachers' Council NSW wish to further discuss PD provider policy please contact John Healey, Director, Initial Teacher Education and Accreditation by telephone on 0467 794 520 or email at John.Healey@nesa.nsw.edu.au.

Yours sincerely


Sarah Mitchell MLC