



MEDIA RELEASE

The Professional Teachers' Council NSW

Dismantling of Professional Development in NSW Education

Earlier this week a media release from the NSW Education Minister, Hon. Sarah Mitchell, outlined a Policy shift by NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) regarding approved professional development providers. In a letter from NESA, CEO Paul Martin stated, "Effective immediately, the new Policy replaces the existing *Endorsement of Professional Development Providers and Courses Policy* (February 2019) and all NESA Registered PD courses are deregistered." The delivery of this new Policy and subsequent deregulation is one of the best examples of how not to manage change, how to isolate and devalue historically sound quality accredited professional learning and demonstrate what having no plan in place looks like.

The Professional Teachers Council NSW (PTC NSW) and its member associations are deeply disappointed that the quality of the professional learning provided by professional teacher associations (PTAs) across NSW has been deregistered, devalued and dismissed by this arbitrary decision. PTAs have historically responded directly to teacher voice via direct contact through their professional membership, ensuring flexibility to respond to teachers' needs, across all KLAs, addressing pedagogy, the constant changes in educational directions, curriculum reviews and political imperatives.

This decision by NESA to deregister authorised providers will dramatically reduce professional learning opportunities. The Professional Teachers Council and its not-for-profit member PTAs provide open access for all NSW teachers regardless of sector or system to lively and cross-sectoral networking and professional learning experiences. For decades the professional teacher associations of NSW have been offering quality professional learning for teachers from all sectors and systems; professional learning that has been created by teachers, delivered by teachers and based on teacher and school needs across all KLAs and stages to support the outcomes for all NSW students, in all schools. However, the CEO of NESA's announcement means that only the NSW Department of Education, Catholic Schools NSW and the Catholic Dioceses, and Association of Independent Schools NSW will be accredited and may assess and accredit courses they deliver in the identified priority areas as NESA Accredited PD.



The Minister further stated, “I want our teachers to be able to access the best professional development courses possible, providing them ongoing improvement in their vital role as educators for the students of NSW.” The Minister identified initial priority areas, which historically professional teacher associations are already meeting. In addition, the Minister has said, “...from next year each individual course will need to demonstrate a genuine focus on improving teaching in the classroom through best practice to receive accreditation.” The Professional Teachers Council of NSW has supported the provision and accreditation of quality professional learning programs of its member associations via the PTC NSW’s Professional Learning Committee, which monitors all professional learning applications to ensure they not only met but exceeded NESA accreditation compliance for Provisional, Proficient, Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher.

The Professional Teachers Council and its professional teacher association members look forward to continuing their historically sound practices for supporting the delivery of high-quality accredited professional learning courses for teachers across all sectors and systems of NSW including regional and remote.

The Professional Teachers Council requests that NESA and The Minister for Education reconsider the deregulation of our provider status and includes the PTC NSW as one of the Authorised Providers of professional learning in NSW.