



Dr Denis Mootz
President
Professional Teachers' Council NSW

Email: manager@ptc.nsw.edu.au

Dear Dr Mootz

Thank you for your email regarding the recent announcement about changes to the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) policy for accrediting Professional Development (PD) courses.

I appreciate that the announcement has caused concern to existing PD providers and some confusion among teachers regarding how the changes affect them.

NESA's decision to change the way PD is regulated in NSW directly responds to the Minister's request that NESA review its 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.

As a valued stakeholder and longstanding provider of PD for teachers, NESA included the Professional Teachers' Council NSW (PTC) in consultation and discussions that have occurred since the Minister announced the review in July. I note that the PTC was the only provider included in these discussions other than the Department of Education, Catholic Schools NSW, the Association of Independent Schools NSW and the two teacher unions.

Limiting NESA's 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 to cancel our endorsement of all existing providers and courses. The new requirements for teachers and providers will be phased in during 2021.

NESA has consulted major stakeholders on details for the implementation of the new requirements. NESA is eager to provide the PTC with an update on the implementation arrangements and I note that the PTC has confirmed availability to meet with the NESA CEO, Paul Martin, on 17 December 2020.

In relation to your request to hold Authorised Provider status under the new *Accreditation of Professional Development Courses Policy*, I advise that only those large, sector-wide organisations over which NESAs has existing regulatory authority have been included as Authorised Providers. Limiting the organisations with responsibility for assessing and accrediting their own courses on NESAs's behalf to those listed fulfils the imperative set by the Minister to ensure greater oversight of the value and quality of each individual course accredited by NESAs.

I am confident that the expertise of many providers, the rigour of their existing internal processes and the quality of their courses will ensure that a considerable number of their courses will meet the new principles and criteria for the priority areas and be successfully accredited when the new process is finalised in early 2021.

To ensure ongoing availability of PD for teachers, NESAs has invited all previously endorsed providers to apply for interim accreditation of courses in particular priority areas. Eligible courses may be granted interim accreditation up to 31 July 2021. This will allow a continuous, albeit limited, supply of NESAs Accredited PD for teachers to complete while NESAs finalises the new principles, criteria, application and assessment processes in early 2021.

NESAs has emailed all previously endorsed providers directly with information on submitting an Expression of Interest for interim accreditation of courses and I encourage you to engage with the interim process.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please contact John Healey, Director, Initial Teacher Education and Accreditation by telephone 9367 8470 or email John.Healey@nesa.nsw.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



Peter Shergold
Chairperson, NESAs Board

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