

**News in Brief – June 2019**



**President's Report**

Is it approaching the middle of the year and Professional Teacher Associations have been running professional learning activities, coordinating opportunities for teachers to collaborate and advocating for the role of teachers and teaching associations at local, state and national levels.

**Strategic Plan**

The APTA Board has finalised its strategic plan for 2019-2021. The vision for APTA is to provide national leadership that supports and advances the teaching profession, built on the three pillars of collaboration, advocacy and leadership.



### **Constitutional reform of APTA**

A committee has been established to make progress on Strategy 2.1 – Constitutional reform of APTA. After examining the Australian Institute of Company Directors “Not-for-Profit Governance Principles” and feedback from state and territory joint councils, the committee is developing a governance model that will ensure APTA will be able to make decisions and operate with accountability, transparency and responsiveness, as well as facilitating shared, flexible decision making and leadership (Strategy 3.1 of the APTA Strategic Plan). Ask your state representative on the APTA Board if you would like more information on progress.

### **House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training Inquiry into the Status of the Teaching Profession**

A summary of issues arising from the public hearings has been published by the chair of the Inquiry, Andrew Laming, MP, and can be accessed [here](#). Through APTA’s representation at the public hearing in Sydney on 5 March, teacher associations and state joint councils had input into these findings.

After the recent federal government election, there is the opportunity for APTA to continue to advocate for the Status of the Teaching Profession as we move into the second half of 2019. Of particular interest is the Inquiry’s recommendation to fund, structure and foster collaborative and professional learning communities (which include subject matter and leadership experts). Professional teacher associations, with their wide and deep cross-sectoral collaborative networks, are in an ideal position to develop opportunities at both the national and state level. APTA will endeavour to support state joint councils to identify opportunities to advocate for the role of professional teacher associations in educational decision making (Strategies 2.3 and 3.2 of the APTA Strategic Plan).

### **Australian Council for Deans of Education: Collaborating to Improve the Status of the Teaching Profession**

APTA was represented at this event in Melbourne on 29 March by Board Member David Browne. There was the opportunity to hear further insights from various stakeholders on this important topic. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Asia Education Foundation**

I will represent APTA at the Asia Education Foundation Advisory Board Meeting in Brisbane on 6 June. A report will be provided in the next APTA News in Brief.



#### **Adobe Connect**

APTA is able to provide professional teacher associations with access to Adobe Connect conferencing software for webinars, online meetings, mobile e-learning, video conferencing and virtual classrooms that can be used across devices. Should any association wish to have access, please contact APTA for details.

Cheryl Brennan  
President, APTA

## Council of Professional Teachers Associations of Victoria (CPTAV)



The CPTAV is back in action after some hard work in 2018 and again into the start of 2019!

The CPTAV reformed in 2018 with a total of 26 members signing up. We just updated our website at [www.cptav.vic.edu.au](http://www.cptav.vic.edu.au). Through the website you can find out more about CPTAV and who to contact for any inquiries. Our new team on the Committee of Management consists of:

President	Deb Hull	History Teachers' Association of Victoria
Vice President	Peter Saffin	The Mathematical Association of Victoria
Secretary	Libby Hillman	Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria
Treasurer	Kevin Kelley	Association of Music Educators, Victoria
Committee Member	Laura Murphy	Design and Technology Teachers Association of Victoria
Committee Member	Anne Matthews	Social Education Victoria

The dedicated committee have been working to provide value to the members including:

After establishing a renewed relationship with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), the CPTAV has now organised three events. The first in 2018 focussed on getting to know each other's priorities and where we could work together.

At the Second event in February 2019 CPTAV provided feedback on VCAA's recent research into the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum, including the factors that are enabling or hindering it. We also had the opportunity to offer some preliminary thoughts on their plans for a 'professional learning framework'.

The third event, coming up soon in 2019, is a workshop where the CPTAV will support the VCAA in creating resources that allow schools to improve their implementation of the capabilities in the curriculum.

This valuable work demonstrates how collaboration between the teacher associations and government authorities can enhance educational outcomes, and will continue to be a focus of the CPTAV's work.

Various networking events have been held where members bring a problem to discuss. There have been many useful discussions! This is usually followed by sharing of ideas, resources, policies and other information (...and a few drinks to get conversations going!). Associations should be sharing and creating efficiencies to benefit each other, not reinventing the wheel. CPTAV aims to facilitate this approach further.

Advocacy has begun! Many of our members in government schools are facing an uphill battle when it comes to getting approval to attend professional learning in their subject areas. The Victorian Department of Education and Training is encouraging schools to focus on in-school professional learning and whole-school change initiatives. These can have positive outcomes, but if it means that teachers can't choose to improve the extent to which they 'know their subject and how to teach it' (AISTSL), and engage with out-of-school experts and colleagues to do so, this policy will lead to a marked difference between the subject expertise in independent/Catholic schools and government schools. We need to help our members retain the right to make their own professional learning choices. Deb (HTAV - History) gave a speech about this at the last meeting with the VCAA and her speech is available anyone interest. Contact Deb for a copy: [d.hull@htav.asn.au](mailto:d.hull@htav.asn.au)



*APTA aims to provide leadership that supports and advances professional teaching associations, by being a voice for, and raising the profile of, the profession by building an informed and supportive network for collaborative activities, projects and research.*

[www.apta.edu.au](http://www.apta.edu.au)

We have a calendar of events on our website, including a governance session for those associations with many teacher volunteers on their Boards who could not otherwise afford such training.

Keep an eye on us as we progress through 2019.

## Professional Teachers' Council NSW (PTCNSW)



PTC NSW - What's been happening!

### NSW State Election

As a result of the recent NSW State election we have a change of Education Minister. Our new Minister Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC is now the NSW Minister for Education and Early Learning. PTC NSW had begun to

develop a close working relationship with the former Education Minister Rob Stokes and now looks forward to establishing a new relationship with the new Minister. PTCNSW looks forward to the release of the NSW Curriculum Review report due shortly and to working with the Minister around recommendations from the review.

### NESA CEO moves on

New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) is currently looking for a new CEO with the recent departure of David de Carvalho. David has taken up a new position as CEO of ACARA. NESA's acting CEO is Mr Paul Martin was Executive Director, Quality Teaching at NESA for some time. PTC NSW continues to work with Paul and NESA across NSW curriculum and looks forward to the release of the report from the NSW Curriculum Review. PTCNSW is well placed to support NESA as it unpacks the recommendations of the NSW Curriculum Review.

### PTC NSW Secretariat Support

PTCNSW has developed a set of new initiatives for 2019 and member associations. One significant improvement is an investment in a customised membership renewal system. Our new membership portal provides customised membership renewals. Invoicing and invoicing reminders automatically from the portal. Having this feature reduces the amount of hands on administration time and much more user friendly space for all members. In addition we have added a conference and events platform that handles all facets of an association's conference and events needs. As part of the platform a dedicated web based registration space is created, directly linking to a conference APP that all participants can use to register at an event via their smart devices, incorporating QRcode technology. This facility removes the need for hand written sign in and provides member associations with accurate data on all participants across the entire event of conference.

OpenLearning, our preferred on-line space is beginning to grow in popularity with a number of new courses set to go live in 2019.

Our addition of ZOOM at a significantly reduced fee has helped member associations access meeting and Webinar access that is professional, secure and functional.

## The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations (JCQTA)



The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations (JCQTA) holds two face to face events annually. The Presidents' Dinner was held in February and the Ros Korkatsis Memorial Forum is to be held in August. Ros Korkatsis was instrumental in founding the JCQTA and held executive positions in both the JCQTA and QHTA (Queensland History Teachers Association). The focus of this year's forum will be on working with the Department of Education,

Queensland in providing support to rural and remote teachers. Caroline Brooks, JCQTA President met with a representative of the Department of Education to discuss the establishment of four new Rural and Remote Centres for Learning and Wellbeing to support the professional learning of staff and wellbeing of both staff, students and families. Two centres are currently operational in Mount Isa and Roma and an additional two centres will be established in Emerald and Atherton. The Atherton centre will also service the Torres Strait and Cape. It is hoped that regional and remote teachers can be encouraged to join professional associations and receive professional development at these centers. A presentation on governance is also scheduled for the forum.

Sherryl Saunders (Vice President) and Caroline Brooks attended an afternoon tea hosted by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority which brought together their officers that manage the humanities subjects and members of professional associations that represent humanities learning areas. There is the potential for new associations to be formed with the implementation of subjects such as Philosophy in the senior years of schooling. It was a productive afternoon tea and JCQTA is looking to work with associations that are involved in the study of religion and philosophy.



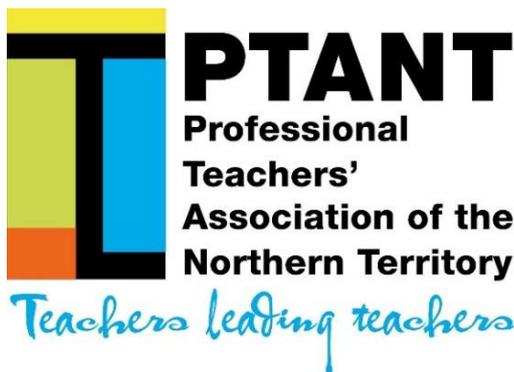
Sherryl Saunders (left), Caroline Brooks (second from left) and Phillipa Greig (right) from the JCQTA with QCAA representatives.

The National Education Summit, Brisbane will be held in Brisbane on 31 May and 1 June 2019 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC). There is an opportunity for JCQTA Member associations to attend the

National Education Summit at a discounted rate. The Brisbane Summit comprises an Expo with free seminars on the Open Stage for teachers, a Special Needs Symposium, Creativity and Innovation in Learning Conference, Capacity Building School Libraries Conference and Digital Classrooms Conference.

The JCQTA promoted professional associations at the Teach Queensland Rural fair and the Beginning and Emerging Teachers Association state conference.

## Professional Teachers' Association of the Northern Territory (PTANT)



As the incoming president for PTANT I would like to introduce our [2019/20 PTANT executive committee](#) and to give you a quick update about the important work we are doing to support Territory teachers.

We are an association driven by the willingness of teachers and educators to volunteer their time for the benefit of others. At our most recent Annual General Meeting, the following individuals were prepared to step up to help PTANT achieve success. Each executive member brings the experience and knowledge from various professional teacher member associations to ensure we are a well-rounded committee representative of teachers' interests.

Steve Hawkins	President	Geography & History Teachers Association NT
Jenni Webber	Vice President	Science Teachers Association NT
Rebecca Johnson	Treasurer	Australian Council for Health, Physical Education & Recreation (NT)
Andrea Fulton	Secretary	Australian Literacy Educators Association Top End
Graeme Sawyer	Executive Member	Australian Association for Environmental Education (NT)
Mark Bunnnett	Executive Member	Drama Territory
Lenny	Executive Member	NT Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented

A five-year funding agreement with the NT Department of Education will allow PTANT to continue to grow and improve in our support to member associations. The certainty of funding has allowed us to develop a [Strategic Plan 2019-24](#) which centres our service delivery to members around five goals, each set to improve the professional capability of educators, meet governance and legislative requirements, collaborate with organisations that provide quality education services, and to advocate for and promote the fantastic work of our member associations.

PTANT administered grants to member associations that funded 75 professional learning opportunities in 2018. The value and impact of these events are showcased in our [Annual Performance Report 2018](#) which I invite you to read for a detailed account of the achievements of our member associations.

A major highlight this year is the [Festival of Teaching](#) being held on Saturday 24 August at Palmerston College. Mr Steve Francis and Ms Gabbie Stroud will give keynote addresses, and 50 workshops that span the curriculum and stages of schooling will be offered by our member associations for the benefit of teachers across the Territory. I know that many associations are funding travel for regional and remote teachers, and the stage is set for an amazing professional learning event. We would love you to come along, and to promote this event with your networks.

As the new president, I look forward to working with our stakeholders and I invite you to contact me by email [ptant.doe@nt.gov.au](mailto:ptant.doe@nt.gov.au) or phone 08 89449324 at any time. I would be happy to meet to discuss our initiatives and how we can collaborate on common goals.

Steve Hawkins

President

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 – 2024

PTANT supports the Department of Education in enhancing the capability of teachers and educational leaders to use data, evidence and evaluation to inform planning, best practice and continuous improvement in our schools to maximise student outcomes.

The Strategic Plan 2019-2024 supports the Department of Education's Education NT Strategy 2018-2022 Quality Teaching for NT teachers to deliver quality teaching to students who are engaged in learning.

## MISSION

To advocate for and lead professional Northern Territory teaching associations to build capacity and improve educator quality.

## GOALS

- 1 **SUPPORT MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS TO IMPROVE THE PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITY OF EDUCATORS:**
  - Provide grants to member associations
  - Organise a Festival of Teaching every alternate year
  - Arrange a study tour every alternate year
  - Facilitate professional learning opportunities and events.
- 2 **SUPPORT MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS TO MEET ALL GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:**
  - Member Associations
  - Department of Business.
- 3 **ADVOCATE AND COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS, SPONSORS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS WITH AN INTEREST IN PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION SERVICES:**
  - Australian Professional Teachers Association (APTA)
  - Teacher Registration Board (TRB)
  - Department of Education (DoE)
  - Non-Government Schools
  - Northern Territory Government
  - Higher education institutions
  - Partnership organisations.
- 4 **ACTIVELY ADVOCATE FOR AND PROMOTE THE WORK OF PTANT AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS:**
  - Advocacy
  - Promotion
  - Communication
  - Building the capacity of the executive.



**PTANT**  
Professional  
Teachers'  
Association of the  
Northern Territory *Teachers leading teachers*

[www.ptant.org.au](http://www.ptant.org.au)  

› COLLABORATE › LEAD › INNOVATE › EMPOWER