
News in Brief – September 2019



President's Report



We are now into the final quarter of the year and APTA has been busy with a range of activities to provide national leadership that supports and advances the teaching profession.

Strategic plan

APTA's strategic plan, presented in the last APTA News in Brief, has provided a clear outline of the organisation's background and vision. This document has provided consistent answers to educational stakeholders who ask, "Who is APTA? When did it start? What is it aiming to achieve?" The document guides the APTA Board in its decision making and in its evaluation of strategies.

[Click here to view APTA's Strategic Plan 2019-2021](#)

The Review of the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians

2019 marks ten years since this important document was developed. The Melbourne Declaration has had a significant impact on APTA as it promoted collaboration between the state-based joint councils of professional teacher associations. It resulted in the development of the Australian Curriculum and the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care, which in turn led to increased connections at a national level and for subject-specific professional teacher associations. A greater number of nation-wide teaching resources, conferences and learning experiences have been produced as a result, enhancing student learning outcomes across the country. There has also been increased reflection on teaching practice through the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, leading to more focused networking, courses and conferences offered by early childhood and subject-specific professional teacher associations in the states and territories, as well as at a national level.

A review of the Melbourne Declaration is currently being undertaken by the Education Council. APTA presented a formal submission to the Review, answering questions such as, "What are your expectations of a national declaration on Australian education?", "What do you consider are the three most important economic, social and technological changes that will shape the future of education in Australia?" and "How could the concepts of equity, excellence and the attributes for young Australians in the Melbourne Declaration be updated to ensure they are still contemporary over the next decade?" APTA's submission to the review emphasised the unique role that professional teacher associations play in the educational landscape to advance student learning outcomes. [The full APTA submission can be viewed here.](#)

I attended the national forum in Canberra on 9 August, along with fellow APTA Board member Rod Nancarrow. Rod Nancarrow and I were seated with the Federal Minister for Education, The Hon. Dan Tehan, and the Secretary of the **Australian Government Department for Education**, Michele Bruniges. We were able to discuss the role of APTA, issues such as student and teacher wellbeing, and the challenges of measuring twenty-first century learner skills such as collaboration and creativity. The national forum was thus an excellent opportunity to advance Strategies 2.3 and 2.4 of the APTA Strategic Plan.

APTA will keep its members updated on developments in the Review over the coming months.

Asia Education Foundation

The Asia Education Foundation is keen to hear how professional teacher associations across the country are providing professional learning and other activities to address the cross-curriculum priority, Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia. If you have some brilliant examples, could you please pass the details on to your state or territory APTA representative? Alternatively, you could email the APTA office directly at contactus@apta.edu.au.

Constitutional reform of APTA

A committee is making progress on Strategy 1.1 – Constitutional reform of APTA. The aim is to facilitate greater flexibility and effectiveness of the APTA Board by taking into account the Australian Institute for Company Directors "Not-for-Profit Governance Principles" as well as feedback from state and territory joint councils. Ask your state representative on the APTA Board if you would like more information on progress.

Cheryl Brennan

President, APTA

Professional Teachers' Council NSW (PTCNSW)



A new network to be born!

PTC NSW has been approached by NESA to establish a new state based HALT network. The aim of this network is to provide a point of reference and combined voice for all accredited Highly Accomplished and Lead teachers and those currently in the process of application. An initial meeting of cross sectoral HALT teachers was held to discuss the concept of a network, what it might look like and some of the ideas around its function. The conversation was overwhelmingly positive! Over the coming months the HALT Network NSW will begin to be formalised with a launch set for September 2019. PTC will report on the journey of this exciting initiative in following APTA newsletters.

PTC NSW Secretariat continues to develop its capacity to support our member associations. An in house website support has been added following requests for support from members. Our new initiative provides cost effective access to web design, rebuild or maintenance for all member associations. Since we began this service earlier this year we have 6 member associations utilising the service.

Melbourne Declaration



PTC NSW attended the Sydney session on the review of the Melbourne Declaration

Education ministers are committed to developing a contemporary national declaration on educational goals for all Australians that will guide national collaborative efforts over the coming years. Education ministers agree that much of the content of the Melbourne Declaration is still relevant and supported by stakeholders. On this basis, the intent of a contemporary declaration will remain the same, as is supported by the majority of the public submissions received as part of the consultation process. Submissions acknowledged the importance of high-quality data on the performance of students and schools for the reasons outlined in the Melbourne

Declaration. Many submissions advocated for measuring and tracking of progress towards clear pre-defined goals and actions, not linked to school accountability (e.g. no increased accountability requirements on schools). Of those submissions that talked about measuring and tracking, most encouraged collaboration to coordinate projects and reduce duplication of data. Some submissions suggested wellbeing and social indicators should be included in measurement and tracking.

During the Sydney session a number of workshops were run across the 3 hours for a wide cross section of stakeholders.

For one of the sessions all stakeholders were invited to add comments across 3 Emerging areas

- TOPIC 1: Lifelong learning: including transitions and pathways (formal and informal) to higher education, work and training through whole of life.
- TOPIC 2: Early childhood education: a focus on reducing inequity and learning disadvantages in early years.
- TOPIC 3: Skills for the future: fostering STEM, creativity, critical thinking, adaptive skills and teamwork.
- TOPIC 4: Wellbeing, culture and social participation in education: fostering holistic education.

Council of Education Associations of South Australia (CEASA)



Advocacy

Educators SA is pushing for greater educator voice in all major education initiatives and decisions. While leader associations are often consulted on major issues, the broader education voice is not always included. Our recent survey 'Educators Say!' clearly showed that educators believe they have voice within their own schools but not at a department, sector or State level. We

are strongly pushing the notion that those who have to implement education policy must be involved in forming the policy right from the start.

Literacy and Numeracy Festival

From the 22nd to the 27th August, the Literacy and Numeracy Festival was held. This is our largest event of the year and in 2019 was expanded to include sessions for parents and students.

The parent forum was sold out with 200 people attending to discover more about how they can support their children's learning.

The Student Action Team session had teams of students working on how they can support literacy and numeracy in their schools.

The educator sessions were expanded to three days providing sessions for teachers and leaders at all levels of care and schooling.

Arts Inspire

In June we held our inaugural Arts Inspire conference. This was a fantastic collaboration of our major Arts associations and the Department for Education and was organised and managed by Educators SA. Arts education does not always get the recognition it deserves and this two-day conference highlighted the importance of Arts for all learners. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive so we will look to make this an annual event.

Members Services

We have now expanded our services to members to include printing and IT support. We have also purchased licenses for Zoom so that our members can better engage country and isolated educators.

Early Career Hub

Our online early career hub is up and running and continually being improved. Targeting pre-service and early career educators, the Hub provides online resources and information as well as live online forums. This term we are running four online forums on high interest topics such as behaviour management and planning with the Australian Curriculum. Take up is increasing and we have had to close registration to our next few online forums.

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



Tasmania's Network of Educational Associations of Tasmania (NEAT) is a federation of both professional and subject associations that serve the interests of educators throughout the state. Membership of NEAT is open to all education associations with varying levels of interest at different times from the following state-based

associations or their national affiliates and 'umbrella associations'.

In May-July, two significant events were held for NEAT members. The first was a very successful ACER Institute day seminar facilitated by ACER's Institute Director, Professor Pauline Taylor-Guy leading a full-day ACER Institute professional learning program on school improvement for curriculum leaders and educational associations across all sectors - government, independent and Catholic. School improvement involves leadership and teachers, pedagogy and school culture, targeted resources and the broader school community, school associations

and parent partnerships working together to improve student achievement. Professor Taylor-Guy demonstrated how the National School Improvement Tool can help schools develop relevant, evidence-based school improvement plans that can drive better outcomes for all students.

The second was a presentation that was well-attended by the NEAT member associations on the occasion of the celebration of 20 years of NEAT's work for the network of educational associations of Tasmania. The guest speaker before the 2019 AGM was Tony Woodward, Principal Project Leader for the Years 9 -12 Project Draft Curriculum Framework in Tasmania. There is further information at <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/projects/years-9-12-project/>

The Years 9 to 12 Project has been established in response to the ACER Review into Years 9 to 12 Education in Tasmania. The project has been set up around focus areas that reflect the recommendations from the Years 9 to 12 Review including:

- * Curriculum, Assessment and Teaching
- * Accreditation and Certification
- * Workforce Support
- * Data
- * A Vision for and promotion of VET and Vocational Learning.

The Years 9 to 12 project team has developed a draft Years 9 to 12 Curriculum Framework in consultation with stakeholders. Once finalized, this framework will be used to redevelop existing courses and to develop new courses that reflect the changing nature of work and the diverse career and study pathways now available to learners.

The NEAT Management Committee is endeavouring to plan a September event to welcome new UTAS leader in teacher education, Professor Victoria Carrington who has come to Tasmania from the University of East Anglia in the UK to take up the position of Head of the School of Education. She will be based in Launceston. Her research areas include young people, literacy and digital technology. More details on Professor Carrington are available <https://www.utas.edu.au/latest-news/utas-homepage-news/community-and-connectivity-new-education-leaders-focus-for-teachers>

Dr Jillian Abell
President, NEAT Tasmania

[NEAT Facebook site](#)

[NEAT blog](#)

The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations (JCQTA)



The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations (JCQTA) was represented at the Review of the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians forum conducted by the Education Council in Brisbane in August. It has been over ten years since the Declaration was written and there was spirited discussion about its continued relevance. The general feeling at the forum was

that, as per the APTA submission, a national statement is relevant and should set a shared vision. The following discussion points may be of interest to APTA members;

- Attendees at the forum suggested that the language of the Declaration be more positive and promote inclusion.
- The role of technology in enabling and supporting learning as well as collecting useful data was identified as a future direction for teachers.
- How will schools look in the future? What will be their role as community hubs?
- There was widespread support for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum and concerns expressed that an updated Declaration could lead to a massive curriculum rewrite which would impact greatly on teacher workload.
- The issue of mental health and wellbeing was identified as requiring attention. There is a danger that wellbeing is perceived as a stand-alone subject rather than a whole school priority. APTA's submission recognised the need for professional development in addressing student wellbeing and the JCQTA recently gave information on counselling courses available to teachers in its newsletter.
- The importance of quality early childhood education was identified.
- The future of NAPLAN and data collection and publication is an issue that influences student and teacher wellbeing.
- Creating opportunities to hear and act on student voice was important and student voice should contribute to an updated Declaration.

The Ros Korkatsis Memorial Forum is to be held in August. There are three presentations scheduled;

- How can professional teacher associations work with the Department of Education, Queensland to support regional and remote members? There are four regional centres for Learning and Wellbeing; Mount Isa, Roma, Emerald and Atherton (the Atherton centre will also service the Torres Strait and Cape York).
- An update on the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT). A new Director, Ms Deanne Fishburn has been appointed and will outline her role and the work of the QCT. The QCT recently conducted a survey for the Australian Teacher Workforce (ATWD) Data and QCT teacher registration data will be included in the ATWD.
- Sponsorship of Professional Teacher Associations. The JCQTA has been fortunate to receive funding from Teachers Mutual Bank (TMB) and Jaeda Wollington, the State Manager for Queensland and the Northern Territory will present on how TMB can support associations.

JCQTA flyers will be distributed at the Teach Queensland Rural Fair in September.

After an extended period as JCQTA President, Caroline Brooks will be stepping down at the AGM in August. Caroline has appreciated the opportunity to work with APTA and has benefited professionally and personally. She wishes APTA all the best for the future. Lyn Allsop, long term JCQTA treasurer and Dorothy Hoddinott Award winner is also stepping down.

Professional Teachers' Association of the Northern Territory (PTANT)



The PTANT held its iconic biennial [Festival of Teaching](#) on Saturday 24 August at Palmerston College in Darwin. The Festival of Teaching was coordinated by the PTANT and 14 Member Associations offering educators professional development across the curriculum and all levels of schooling.

On Friday 23 August the Welcome function and art exhibition was held at the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

On Saturday 24 August, 310 educators gathered at Palmerston College to make the most of the [Festival's professional learning program](#), including:

- Two keynote speakers, Mr [Steve Francis](#) and Ms [Gabbie Stroud](#);
- 50 workshops spanning the curriculum; and
- 22 exhibits providing access to educational organisations and resources.

At the end of the day the Network function was held at Rydges Palmerston to unwind and reflect.

This was the fourth PTANT Festival of Teaching. The goal of the steering committee is to deliver the preeminent professional learning event of the year for NT teachers.

Please visit the [website to view the photo gallery](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#).

In recent months the PTANT has welcomed two new [member associations](#), the NT Research Teachers Association and the Chinese Language Teachers Association of the NT. This brings PTANT's total membership to 21 professional associations. We are excited that both of the new members are newly formed associations that increase the scope of professional support and networking for NT educators.

The remainder of the year will see the PTANT focus on moving member grant applications to an online platform, developing clear grant application assessment guidelines and offering our members a workshop to launch the online grant application process and support members in understanding the assessment guidelines.

In November the PTANT will host a president's networking event to acknowledge the outstanding contributions that presidents provide to their associations and bring the professional association presidents together to share and inspire each other in the important work they do.

