



State Territory Council name: COACTEA

Membership (list additions or deletions to the list of your state and territory associations):

Membership includes:

ACEL – Australian Council for Educational Leaders

AASE – Australian Association of Special Educators

HTA -- History Teachers Association

SOPHY -- Society of Philosophy for the Young

InTEACT – ICT and Computing Association

SEA*ACT – Science Educators' Association of ACT

MLTA – Modern Language Teachers Association

ALEA -- Australian Literacy Educators' Association

CMA – Canberra Mathematical Association

State Territory Council advocacy:

- Established links with ACT Government Teacher Quality Institute
- Government Schools Education Council

State Territory Council initiatives:

COACTEA has had a productive year. The professional learning workshops offered to teachers and pre-service teachers received very positive feedback from the participants with requests for more professional learning opportunities in 2015.

By supporting the work of professional associations, COACTEA is assisting teachers to build knowledge and skills that align with the requirements of their specialisations and the achievement of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. The COACTEA Global Education funding has supported initiatives such as the AASE workshop, the SEA*ACT Conference, *CONSEA*ACT - Food for our Future: Science Feeding the World*, the Philosophy

for Schools project, including the *Thinking Schools, Thinking Students* workshops, and the Australia-Thailand Partnership in Civics and Citizenship education, which will build links between the two countries.

Issues that impact on the State Territory Joint Council

- An important challenge for COACTEA has been the maintenance of a secure financial position to provide ongoing support for member initiatives. COACTEA aims to work collaboratively and in partnership to facilitate this process.
- ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) requirements in relation to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, registration and professional learning.

What is happening in your state that is not covered above?

Professional Association initiatives supported by COACTEA

CONSEA*ACT 2014

CONSEA*ACT is the annual conference of Science Educators Association of the ACT. This year's theme supported the 2014 National Science Week school's theme – *'Food for our Future: Science Feeding the World'*.

The subject of the conference encompassed a global education viewpoint. Food production is a global theme, and lends itself to three of the five key learning areas of global education: cultural diversity; interdependence and globalisation; and sustainable futures. The Keynote Address and conference workshops provided teachers with the opportunity to reflect on the global perspectives and issues behind food production and processes and how science can be used to address these.

The three Cross Curriculum Priorities: Sustainability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures and Asia and Asia Literacy were integrated into the conference theme and were further underpinned by the General Capabilities of Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding and ICT Capability.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr Carol Quashie-Williams, an entomologist with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture. Dr Quashie-Williams is Jamaican-born and has studied and worked extensively in various countries before settling in Australia. She has also joined the national Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools program and supports student learning at Farrer Primary School's Environment Centre. Dr Quashie-Williams outlined her work in entomology and its connection to food production, particularly in third-world countries, and how, on a different scale, she works with primary students to increase their understanding of the local and global issues behind food production and how science can make a difference.

Mr Larry Spry, Course Coordinator, School of Education, University of South Australia and a member of the ACARA working group on the Australian Curriculum: Design and Technologies, was one of the workshop presenters. Larry Spry is held in high regard amongst the teaching community in South Australia, is well known and respected in the ACT and is also known by CSIRO contacts as an excellent education consultant, leader and inspiration in his field of Science, Design and Technology.

The conference was held at Merici College, Braddon, which has an extensive environment centre and glasshouse, which, in turn, produces food for its in-house café/brasserie as well as the production of micro-greens for sale to local restaurants. The school has engaged in a 'No-Waste' philosophy so that all foodstuffs produced within, or brought into the school, are compostable or recyclable. Merici College has several Aboriginal plant gardens, so the venue lends itself very well to the various underlying themes of the conference.

Various organisations were invited to set up Trade Displays, to further promote the conference theme and extend the concepts of the diversity and globalization of food production and support the CCPs integral to the conference. One Trade Display was jointly run by the Environment and Planning Directorate's Aboriginal Rangers and Greening Australia and covered the Ngunnawal food plants available for growth in the Canberra region. The two organisations have combined to produce a 'Bush Tucker Food' booklet and a DVD. On the day, teachers could arrange for representatives to visit the school and work with students to grow and produce native food plants and also demonstrate how Aboriginal culture developed its science of food production in a sustainable way.

The sponsorship by COACTEA was acknowledged by posters throughout the conference area and a presentation to the full conference about COACTEA and the Global Education projects. In addition, COACTEA was thanked again for its sponsorship during the announcements at the end of the conference. Participants were also given a copy, organised by COACTEA, of the Global Education resource: *A "silent tsunami": Global food security in the 21st Century*. This was highly relevant to the theme of the conference *Science Feeding the World*.

ACT Education Information Market Day, HBCTL, Thursday 16 March 2014

The purpose of the Information Market was to enable access for groups to connect with teachers and showcase the rich array of teaching and learning opportunities available to staff across the ACT. The Information Market was promoted to teachers across the ACT, particularly new educators. The COACTEA stand at the Education attracted quite a few visitors.

Mini Expo of Professional Associations, ACU

A mini expo was held at the Australian Catholic University on Thursday 17th April, 2014. The aim was to broaden the students' knowledge of professional associations. It was specifically

organised for 4th year Primary and Early Childhood pre-service teachers. The Expo was a success with many organisations represented.

Website renewal

A COACTEA priority is the redevelopment of its website to enhance communication and promotion of events to the broader professional community.

Report completed by (name): A/Prof Carolyn Broadbent and Sue Wilson

Date report submitted: 23/11/2014