

April 2005

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2004

For the past year the Council of ACT Education Associations (COACTEA), in concert with its national body, the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations (AJCPTA), has worked effortlessly to ensure the voice of its member associations has been heard throughout Canberra at key educational forums, committees, functions and more broadly throughout the educational community.

Affiliations and Representation

Centre for Teaching and Learning

In 2004 COACTEA worked diligently to strengthen the collaborative partnership established during 2003 with the Centre for Teaching and Learning. The ongoing support of Dennis Flannery in furthering the work of COACTEA has been especially helpful, resulting in an offer by the Centre to update and maintain the COACTEA website. This is an important development given its potential to benefit members in terms of enhanced communication, stronger networks and opportunities for online discussion and interaction. Member associations have responded somewhat slowly to the request for updated information regarding executive membership and contact details but progress is continuing and it is hoped the coming weeks will see this task completed.

The official launch of the Professional Associations room at the Centre in November proved successful in providing an opportunity for members to discuss how best to use the office space and storage. The establishment of a set of protocols for use of the space, both office and storage, should assist in ensuring equitable outcomes for all member associations. A workshop outlining the fundamentals of archiving will be offered to members in the coming months. Given the size limitations of the storage space, and potential for overload, it is essential that member associations attend this workshop before they commence bringing relevant materials to the Centre.

ACT Curriculum Review

Nick Ewbank (Vice President COACTEA) has continued to represent COACTEA on the Executive of the ACT Government's Curriculum Renewal Consultative Committee, responsible for guiding the curriculum reform process in the ACT. Under his direction, COACTEA consulted with member associations to prepare a response to the ACT Government's document 'Every Chance to Learn'. COACTEA has now responded to the call for Expressions of Interest for membership of Reference groups to assist in the developmental work related to the thirty-six Essential Learning Achievements.

2004 National Awards for Quality Schooling

Nick Ewbank represented the AJCPTA at this prestigious event held in the Mural Hall at Parliament House, Canberra, on Thursday February 17, 2005

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AJCPTA and Values Framework Project

Throughout 2004, the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations (AJCPTA) has been, under the presidency of Anne Tumak, proactive in promoting the role of the AJCPTA to the wider national educational community, especially through its strong position on the NIQTSL Board. This has brought benefits to state and territory affiliates. Most recently, the AJCPTA secured substantial funding from DEST to develop a partnership project with teachers through their professional associations. It is anticipated the funding, allocated for professional development related to the National Framework for Values Education in Australian schools, will continue each year for three years. COACTEA is now charged with leading and managing this process at the local level in the form of two forums and focus group discussions. Further details are provided on the last page of this newsletter.

COACTEA is also represented by Carolyn Broadbent on the ACT Government's Values Education Forums Advisory Committee under the chair of Dr Thelma Perso, Manager Curriculum Support ACT DET.

National Institute of Quality Teaching and School Leadership

The AJCPTA continues to maintain a strong position on the NIQTSL Board thereby ensuring the voice of professional associations is heard at the national level. Areas presently under consideration by the Board include professional standards, pre-service teacher education, the teaching practicum, the National Awards for Teaching, and the future shape and focus of the Institute. In its latest report, NIQTSL stated that ‘for the Institute to be effective and successful in its mission, the ongoing governance arrangements need to:

- Demonstrate a strong sense of ownership by the profession

- Show an appropriate degree of independence

- Give proper accountability to government for funds allocated to the Institute

- Be inclusive of all teachers and school leaders

- Have an appropriate balance in terms of interests, expertise, and location

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Be effective in terms of responsibilities and administrative costs

Further details are available at the Institute’s website www.niqtsl.edu.au

Public Liability Insurance

COACTEA is mindful of the concerns of member associations in regard to Public Liability Insurance. Changes in legislation in recent years have seen professional associations struggle to ensure they are adequately covered by insurance for their related professional activities. This is especially acute for smaller professional associations with limited funds. On request, legal advice provided through Dennis Flannery at the CTL resulted in the clear message that Public Liability Insurance is a must for all professional associations.

Recent discussions in Melbourne

with members of the AJCPTA proved valuable in establishing that 'umbrella' policies do exist and, in one state, work effectively to provide cover for member associations. COACTEA is now investigating this option for interested members. To support this development, COACTEA has applied for funding through the Professional Learning Fund to convene a seminar focused on this important issue.

Other events 2004-05

Breakfast forum

In September, COACTEA facilitated a successful Breakfast Forum, titled the Impact of Technology on Curriculum Change, at Australian Catholic University

, Signadou Campus. The guest speaker, Professor Hermann Maurer, Dean of the Faculty of Computer Sciences, Gaz University of Technology, Austria, delighted members with his very stimulating presentation.

Keys to Canberra

forum held at CSIRO in March, 2005. The event was well attended, providing many opportunities for interaction with teachers and pre-service teachers regarding the role of member associations in Canberra

. This forum provides an excellent opportunity for member associations to highlight their professional learning activities, sign up new members, develop networks, and learn about the stimulating work being carried out by other member associations.

Future projects

- Values Education Forum

- Archiving workshop

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Public Liability workshop

Members are encouraged to continue to support the important work of COACTEA and its national body, the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations (AJCPTA) throughout 2005. This will ensure professional associations receive due recognition for their commitment and contributions to promoting excellence throughout the educational community.

The AJCPTA and COACTEA reflect the strength of their constituent members. In concert, professional associations can play an important role in bringing about significant change for the benefit of all teachers while providing inspirational leadership to those about to enter the profession. The committee thanks all members for their contributions throughout 2004 and extends the very best wishes for a productive 2005.

Dr Carolyn Broadbent
President COACTEA
March 2005

Report on the Curriculum Renewal Consultative Committee

The Curriculum Renewal process has moved into its next phase, with the release of Future Directions in ACT Curriculum Renewal on 23 February. Also released was

Principles and Framework (Phase 1). Thirty-six Essential Learning Achievements have been identified, and reference groups to examine these have been formed, with professional associations being contacted directly by the Curriculum Renewal team. The Consultative Committee continues to meet, so if you have any feedback, please let me know.

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