

## COACTEA ANNUAL REPORT 2009

**Presented at the AGM March 2010**

COACTEA (Council of ACT Education Associations) has had a productive year and through funding received from the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations (AJCPTA), now the Australian Professional Teachers Association (APTA), has supported the work of its member associations. Important 2009 priorities and events include:

### **Quality projects**

Through the AJCPTA (APTA), the Council of ACT Educational Associations (COACTEA) has responded at the national and local level to support the Australian Government's Values Education initiatives (2004-2008). These include the Values Education schools projects that bring together parents, principals, teachers and teacher educators, Values Education forums, and other professional learning opportunities. Underpinning the Values Education programs is *The National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools* (2003).

COACTEA has been active in raising the awareness of Values Education in schools and throughout the broader educational community. Members continue to be represented on Government committees and are encouraged to promote Values Education at their various professional association events. COACTEA representatives at the National Forum for Values Education, Canberra, were Sue Wilson, Carolyn Broadbent and Martina Fechner.

The cross-sectoral ACT Government Values Education Committee has worked collaboratively to develop quality projects for Government, Catholic, and Independent schools in the ACT; for example, the ACT Values Education and Student Wellbeing Funded Schools Project 2009. As a component of the ACT Values Education Professional Learning Project, grants were awarded to 14 schools to develop and implement whole school approaches to values education and student well-being through curriculum implementation and staff professional development. The project included a research component conducted by ACU and UC in partnership with the schools. The research aimed to provide evidence for the development of whole school approaches to values education, student wellbeing, resilience and positive education. Schools assumed responsibility for their own research methodologies, collection of data and analysis of evidence throughout the funding period. COACTEA president, Carolyn Broadbent, and other members of the research team, facilitated action research workshops and provided advice to individual schools upon request.

The success of this Committee has prompted members to continue their work in 2010 even without specific allocated funding.

## **Sustainability**

A focus on education for sustainability, which is values driven, has provided COACTEA with an avenue for further involvement in professional learning and research. Sue Wilson, Vice President of COACTEA, attended the Sustainability Careers Expo to promote teaching as a career for students who are concerned about the environment and want to make a contribution to their community. Sue also attended the Accreditation and Registration Council Provider Forum Breakfast in September where guest speaker Dr Sue Lewis, Sustainability Catalyst at the National Centre for Sustainability, Swinburne University of Technology, provided the address. The national ARIES research project has provided funding to examine drivers and blockers to embedding Education for Sustainability across pre-service teacher education courses in the ACT.

## **Keys to Canberra**

The Keys to Canberra 2010 event was very successful and over 200 teachers and pre-service teachers attended to look at the displays. The event followed the Beginning Teachers' PD day and therefore many of the teachers who attended were early career teachers.

COACTEA presented a colourful display at the exhibition. Member professional teaching associations were invited to provide materials for the display and to join Sue Wilson, Vice President COACTEA, at the table to speak to teachers about their associations. COACTEA offered teachers a Lucky Door Prize of complimentary membership to one of the ACT professional teacher associations. Dana Candusso of Mawson Primary School won the prize. The display was used again on the secondary teachers' day, which was held on Friday 5 March.

## **Professional Standards**

Mary Gallagher coordinated the COACTEA Primary Professional Standards workshop and collated the feedback to the AJCPTA (APTA) for inclusion in a national submission.

## **Other**

Carolyn Broadbent presented an address at the ACEL breakfast on International Teachers' Day at the High Court of Australia, October 30.

COACTEA, in partnership with members of the AJCPTA, gave a presentation: *AJCPTA: A national focus for professional teacher development* at the 2009 ACEL Conference in Darwin, 26-28 September.

Sue Wilson was the COACTEA representative on the AGQTP Committee, ACT.

## **Grants**

COACTEA continued to provide financial support to member associations during 2009 for professional development projects or events; e.g. the Modern Language Teachers Association conference.

## **Future events**

In 2010, COACTEA will sponsor the keynote speaker at the Canberra Mathematics Association Conference 2010 *'Mathematics and sustainability: Fertile questions'* to be held at ACU 20-21 August. The speaker, Professor Hugh Possingham, will also provide a pre-conference public lecture on the 19<sup>th</sup> August at ACU.

COACTEA will coordinate an APTA sponsored Web 2.0 workshop in April or May 2010.

## **ORACLE Education Foundation Partnership**

Kathryn Brown and Rebecca Arnold (CEA\*ACT) will represent COACTEA/APTA at the ORACLE training workshop in Sydney 20-21 March to learn about the project and its application to the classroom. After training, it is expected that Kathryn and Rebecca will facilitate two workshops in Canberra within 12 months. A minimum of 10 participants is required for each workshop.

## **Membership**

Member associations are encouraged to update contact details regularly to ensure effective communication is maintained between COACTEA and members.

I look forward to working with member associations throughout 2010.

Associate Professor Carolyn Broadbent  
President COACTEA  
March 2010