
News in Brief – March 2019



President's Report



Welcome to the first APTA News in Brief for 2019!

Professional Teacher Associations across the country have been busy reviewing their strategic plans, deciding on professional learning activities for the year ahead and thinking of new ways to strengthen collaborative networks to produce greater effectiveness.

APTA has also been busy. Key tasks in the last four months have included inducting a new APTA Board, developing a new strategic plan, reviewing the Constitution, participating in the High Quality Professional Learning National Dialogue in Melbourne and appearing as a witness at the House of Representatives Inquiry into the Status of the Teaching Profession.

New APTA Board

APTA Board members who were elected at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 11 November are as follows:

Cheryl Brennan (President)
Malcolm McInerney (Vice President)
Sue Gazis (Acting Treasurer and Past President)
Pam Adam (Secretary)
Caroline Brooks
Sherryl Saunders
David Browne
Mary Gallagher
Carolyn Broadbent
Rod Nancarrow
Jill Abell
Julie Rimes

New Strategic Plan

The APTA Board have been working on a new strategic plan to guide its direction into the future after extensive discussions about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the organisation. The strategic plan

sets out the vision of APTA: to provide national leadership that supports and advances the teaching profession, and it is built on three pillars: collaboration, advocacy and leadership. The final version of the strategic plan, including the strategies, will be presented in the next edition of "APTA News in Brief".

Review of Constitution

The APTA Board are reviewing its Constitution in order to better meet the needs of the organisation and its members. More details will follow in coming months.

High Quality Professional Learning National Dialogue

APTA participated in the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership High Quality Professional Learning National Dialogue in Melbourne on 14 November 2018, represented by Board member David Browne. Difficulties accessing professional learning for early childhood teachers, regional and remote teachers and casual teachers were a particular focus. Professional Teacher associations have the potential to play an important role in raising awareness of issues faced by these groups of teachers. Professional teacher associations also have the potential to provide services such as professional learning opportunities and networking to improve teaching and learning outcomes. A full paper on all of the group discussion sessions will be provided from AITSL once completed.

House of Representative Inquiry into the Status of the Teaching Profession

The status of the teaching profession has been of concern to professional teacher associations for some time. It has now come to the attention of politicians in the House of Representatives. APTA submitted a response to the Inquiry, and this document can be accessed from the [APTA website here](#). APTA participated in a roundtable discussion in Sydney on 5 March to discuss the issues raised in its submission, and David Browne and I represented APTA at this event. This was a productive time to have the voice of teacher associations heard on the national stage.

Cheryl Brennan
President, APTA

Council of Education Associations of South Australia (CEASA)



Advocacy

Educators SA has an increased focus on advocacy for its members in 2019. Having established regular meetings with both government and sector heads, we will be using the information gained from our 'Educators Say!' survey to advocate for the inclusion of educator voice in major initiatives.

Educators Say! Was comprised of three focus groups and a State-wide survey conducted on our behalf by McGregor Tan Research. We far exceeded our target of survey respondents and are in the process of analysing the results. Even at this early stage we are getting some great data such as 69% of educators in the State access professional learning from associations. This far exceeds any other provider including employers. Satisfaction with professional learning run by associations runs at 86%; this is at least 17% higher than any other provider. More to come.

Member Services

We have increased our services to members this year particularly around membership management. Our bespoke membership management system EdSA Gateway has just come into operation and provides a fully automated membership system personalised for each member association. Already over 30% of our members are in the process of shifting across to EdSA Gateway.

MoneySmart

We were successful in winning the contract with the Department for Education to deliver the MoneySmart financial literacy program across the State. Stage 1 of this gives our member associations the opportunity to earn money for their associations by promoting and completing modules of MoneySmart online. We expect that \$87 000 will be shared amongst our member associations.

Innovation Grants

We have just completed the selection process for our 2019 association innovation grants. Eleven associations were successful in winning a grant of up \$6000 each to implement a project that improves services to their members, engages early career educators or better connects country members.

Association Professional Learning

A key focus each year is our training and development program for association committee or board members. Aimed at building the skills and knowledge of those who run associations, eighteen of these sessions will be provided free to our members. From governance issues, member recruitment, networking opportunities and policy and strategy sessions, all are aimed at strengthening and supporting our associations.

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':

[Australian Association of Special Education \(AASE\)](#)

[Australian College of Educators, Tasmanian Branch \(ACE\)](#)

[Australian Council for Health Physical Education and Recreation \(ACHPER\)](#)

[Australian Literacy Educators Association \(ALEA\)](#)

[Australian School Library Association \(ASLA\)](#)

[Australian Society for Music Education \(ASME\)](#)

[Business Educators Australasia Tasmania \(BEAT\)](#)

[Career Development Association of Tasmania \(CDAA\)](#)

[Drama Tasmania \[NAAE\]](#)

[Early Childhood Educators of Tasmania \(ECET\)](#)

[Home Economics Institute of Australia \(HEIA\)](#)

[Mathematical Association of Tasmania \(MAT\)](#)

[Modern Language Teachers Association of Tasmania \(MLTAT\)](#)

[Outdoor Education Tasmania \(OET\)](#)

[Science Teachers Association of Tasmania \(STAT\)](#)

[Tasmanian Art Teachers Association \(TATA\)](#)

[Tasmanian Association for the Teaching of English \(TATE\)](#)

[Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy, Inc. \(TCAL\)](#)

[Tasmanian Geography Teachers Association \(TGTA\)](#)

[Tasmanian History Teachers Association \(THTA\)](#)

[Tasmanian Music Teachers Association \(TMTA\)](#)

[Tasmanian Orff-Schulwerk Association \(TOSA\)](#)

[Tasmanian Society for Information Technology in Education \(TASITE\)](#)

[Tasmanian Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages \(TasTESOL\)](#)

[VETnetwork Australia \(VET\)](#)

NEAT has a history of providing support and representing professional, teaching and subject associations. NEAT works towards improving the status of educators and advocating on their behalf. For NEAT to act on behalf of all associations, it remains vital that there is strong membership to support both social media and more traditional forms of association communications.

The membership benefits include:

- automatic membership of the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations (APTA)
- public liability insurance at a reduced rate
- NEAT news online and APTA briefings
- part of a national network to advocate on behalf of the teaching profession
- access to professional learning and information sessions
- access to the latest information about projects and funding
- opportunities to meet with other educators to exchange ideas and issues
- invitation to advertise events on the APTA calendar

It is the season of conferences and the [NEAT Facebook](#) site is being used to spread the current conference information for events such as the forthcoming state conferences for Science, Music and HASS. NEAT encouraged association management committees to respond to the Years 9 -12 Project Draft Curriculum Framework consultations at <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/projects/years-9-12-project/>

The next major NEAT professional learning event for 2019 is a Hobart meeting to sponsor a venue for the Australian Council for Educational Research's Institute seminar visit to Tasmania to discuss the National School Improvement tool in regard to its domains relevant to subject teaching associations including systematic curriculum delivery or differentiated teaching and learning.

Dr Jillian Abell

President, NEAT Tasmania

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Professional Teachers' Council NSW



PTC NSW Term 1 2019

Glitz and Glam!

The Professional Teachers Council NSW Presentation Evening celebrating the 2018 work of professional teacher associations across NSW. Our move from the traditional Term 4 event to Term 1 allowed more

members of associations and VIP guests to attend. Recipients receiving association certificates of appreciation, and awards for Outstanding Beginning Teacher, Outstanding Professional Service, Media, Exceptional Service, The Professor Dame Marie Bashir Medal and the inaugural Minister for Education Association of the Year were applauded



by 125 member association guests and VIP's! The Professor Dame Marie Bashir Medal was awarded to Dr Denis Mootz, president of PTC NSW and the inaugural Minister for Education Association of the Year was awarded to the Mathematical Association NSW (MANSW) Congratulations to all winners! A link to the evening's program is available on the PTC NSW website under Awards.



Professional Learning buffet 2019

PTC NSW Semester 1 Professional Learning Calendar for 2019 is out, with an electronic version available on the PTC NSW website. We also send a digital copy to all NSW schools for their information. Each semester this comprehensive calendar is produced by PTC NSW and all member associations are invited to send in all PL events to be included as a member benefit! Join in to ensure maximum exposure to your PL events.

ZOOM in!!

PTC NSW has teamed up with Zoom Video Communications to provide all PTC NSW professional teacher association members and in turn their members a discounted rate! Zoom have discounted their rate on Zoom's collaboration on PTC NSW - One Pro License or PTC NSW - One Pro License and Webinar.

There are number of practical ways to utilise the Zoom features: -

- Stream webinars live over Facebook and YouTube
- Use video meetings and webinars for professional development, events and meetings
- Record meetings and webinars to share with members
- Use virtual backgrounds for professional presentations and meetings

We are sure our members will find other creative ways to utilize this great communication platform!

The links below will provide an introduction to Zoom meetings and Zoom webinars!

Zoom Meetings - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnyitUU4DUY>

Zoom Webinars - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vgZzLsl2m8>

Here is a written k-12 case study - https://zoom.us/docs/doc/case/Queen_of_All_Saints_Case_Study.pdf

This is wonderful offer and a significant member benefit for all PTC association members! Zoom is also a professional on-line way of reaching out to regional and remote members and committees.

PTConnect -revamped!

Since the launch of PTConnect Conference App we have been working with the developers to improve the functionality of the App. PTConnect is a full functioning Conference App that provides all participants with a professional interface that connects them to your professional learning events and each other. In addition, we can now track participant attendance at each individual workshop via quick QRcode scan. Organisers can now access a full spreadsheet of all participants movements across multiple days and multiple workshops within these days! Having a full record provides associations a record of each participants attendance which can be used to provide NESAs proof of attendance of participants for accreditation if required. It also allows organisers to ensure that participants receive their full creditable hours for events with confidence or support a decline of attendance hours.

EventsAIR

Running successful events, especially large-scale events consumes considerable amounts of administration time! Time that can be better utilized in key areas of any organisation. PTC NSW is well aware of the time pressures placed on member associations particularly those who run events using volunteer committee members. PTC NSW has for some time been exploring IT solutions that could be applied to events to help reduce the many hours of admin normally required to host events and to help stream line the organisation of events for members.



www.apta.edu.au

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EventsAIR has been adopted by PTC NSW to provide members access to professional IT support for events, particularly large events which will handle the bulk of the admin and record keeping required.

EventsAIR provides the full suite of organisational support from automatic invoicing and reminders, to creating a dedicated website for an event which provides a portal for participation registration, program information, speaker profiles including dedicated conference APP within EventsAIR.

The world of on-line PL

PTC NSW has partnered with Open Learning to provide a secure managed on-line platform to host member association courses. One of our members has taken the opportunity and posted their first course late last year with great success as over 60 participants have completed the course. Our partnership ensures that member associations are exempt from paying any upfront fees. A flat 15% of turnover is held by OpenLearning for hosting courses and access to the platform and 15% held by PTC NSW for all management leaving a full 70% return of all course volume to member associations. Courses can be of varying length and accreditation from Proficient to Lead. Courses can be stand alone, or part of a blended approach as either included in a face-to-face course or conference or as an addition following a course or conference. The options are up to you! During 2019 PTC NSW will be hosting a number of practical Help sessions to assist associations begin to access this important space of professional learning. The on-line space also brings an additional income stream to members. For more information contact the PTC NSW member services.

Accreditation and members

The Professional Learning committee of member association volunteers continues to support the accreditation process as outlined by NES. The number of courses is increasing with the inclusion of on-line courses also increasing in volume. The quality of applications is strong and depth and breadth of course content impressive!

The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations



The Joint Council of Queensland Teacher's Associations (JCQTA) held its annual President's Dinner on Thursday 21 February 2019. The dinner is an opportunity for teacher professional association presidents and other members to meet and share information and concerns in an informal setting.

Presentations were given by Jacqui Wilton from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), Sherryl Saunders (JCQTA Vice President), Moneth Montemayer (ATOM Queensland) and Caroline Brooks (JCQTA President).

Jacqui gave an update on the progress on moving to external assessment for Queensland senior students. Such assessments have been in place in other states for many years and Queensland professional associations should contact their counterparts in other states to learn from their experiences. Jacqui gave an analogy of the change to external assessment as learning to drive on the right side of the road in other countries; the knowledge and skills are there, they just have to be adapted to different conditions. Already, members of Queensland teacher professional associations have put their hands up for the different roles required for a successful transition to the new system which will be in place next year.

Sherryl gave a practical demonstration of how associations could use ADOBE Connect to conduct meetings and professional development events. The JCQTA purchased ADOBE Connect from APTA and has used it to conduct

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JCQTA meetings. As Queensland is such a vast state it is difficult and expensive for associations to service their regional members and ADOBE Connect provides a platform to reach these members.

Moneth spoke about the Queensland Advocates for Arts Education, an alliance of five professional teacher associations; Ausdance Queensland, Queensland Art Teachers Association (QATA), Drama Queensland (DQ), Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) Queensland and the Australian Society for Music Education Incorporated (ASME). The aim of the alliance is for all Queensland students to have access to a quality arts education. To realise this aim the alliance employs the pillars of advocacy, curriculum implementation and professional development. The alliance has established relationships with QCAA and the Department of Education and Training, Queensland. The Queensland Advocates for Arts Education demonstrates the power of coalitions in influencing decision-making in education.

Caroline gave an update on the proposed changes to the APTA constitution, the APTA strategic plan and the investigation of new income streams for APTA. Cheryl Brennan, APTA president will be a witness at the public hearing conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training on the Status of the Teaching Profession and associations are keen to hear the outcomes of this inquiry. Caroline also gave information on the JCQTA's involvement in the two Teach Queensland Career fairs; one of which focuses on teaching in rural Queensland. The JCQTA is providing flyers listing Queensland professional teacher associations. In early March Caroline will attend a presentation on Collaborative Professionalism given by Andy Hargreaves and sponsored by ACEL. Caroline hopes information from this presentation will inform further professional development offered by the JCQTA.

Professional Teachers' Association of the Northern Territory



PTANT has had a very active start to the year for the benefit of our members. We have been working to grow the knowledge and awareness of the importance of professional teaching associations to as many NT teachers as possible and to maintain our support of the valuable work associations do by implementing association services to ease the pressure on busy committee members.

The executive committee is working on PTANT's 2019-24 strategic plan to meet the needs of our members. The updated plan will support associations to meet all governance and legislative requirements; advocate, communicate and promote



PTANT work and the work of member associations: outlined processes for advocacy and collaboration with stakeholders, sponsors and other organisations who have an interest in providing quality education and, most importantly, support PTANT's mantra "teachers leading teachers" by improving the professional capability of educators.

PTANT attended the Department of Education teacher orientation, Stage 2 engagement day and the middle year's conference to talk to teachers and promote the work of professional associations. We also wrote to each Northern Territory school principal to reiterate the quality impact that association affiliation can have on a teacher's career. PTANT spoke to the Department of Education at the Quality Teaching reference committee meeting, reinforcing with key stakeholders that a strong partnership between schools and PTANT produces quality support for a teacher's career progression.

PTANT have supported Northern Territory Board of Studies representative applications and are collaborating with Charles Darwin University to deliver an abstract writing workshop for association members. PTANT aims to provide association professional learning each team in an effort to support our members.



In a very exciting development, PTANT member associations are actively collaborating to develop and deliver a Festival of Teaching, a one day conference held in Darwin offering keynote addresses and up to 50 workshops for the benefit of teachers across the Territory. The festival steering committee is working hard and soon keynote speakers will be announced and a program finalised.

Recognising the tremendous importance of teacher welfare, PTANT actively supported the Department of Education Teacher wellbeing survey. The survey is for all Northern Territory Government school-based teachers across the NT and, we understand, is the first time that an education system in Australia has sought direct feedback from teachers at a system-wide level. PTANT is promoting the survey to member associations in the strong hope that it will inform the development of a teacher well-being strategy.

Data is important to inform business planning and share association achievements, but is a time consuming process for our associations. PTANT aims to support members by streamlining PTANT funded professional learning data and provide a survey service to our members when holding professional learning events to centrally collect data to support our reporting and acquittal processes.

In keeping with our priority to support professional learning for our teachers, the first round of 2019 grants has been distributed with 17 grants awarded to PTANT members totalling \$142000. We cannot wait to see what our associations can do to improve teaching and learning across the Territory!

We look forward to sharing the 2019-24 strategic plan and 2018 annual performance report with you at the next APTA newsletter and hope APTA and its members have a wonderful and productive 2019!