President's Report

There has been a steady growth in the number of members again this year, with 22 associations now affiliated. An additional association has applied for membership this week, to be ratified in the general meeting following the AGM formalities, which will take the total to 23.

A major achievement of the past year has been the development of links with the Staff Colleges section of Education Queensland’s Workforce Development, Learning and Performance Directorate. The major outcome of this liaison has been the development of a Partnership Agreement between the Staff College and JCQTA. The Director of the Staff College, Mr Paul Bird, is our guest speaker today, and the formal signing of this Agreement is part of his presentation to us. The Agreement has been formalised as a direct result of the meeting between Anna Bligh, Minister for Education, and JCQTA representatives on 2 April 2002. The Agreement is a model for affiliates to adopt, if they so desire, particularly in their organisation of professional development exercises for members. The Agreement establishes program areas and activities for partnership exercises and areas of responsibility of partners. For example, an anticipated output activity of partners is jointly to “work collaboratively to facilitate and broker learning opportunities associated with JCQTA workshops or learning events”. It is planned to explore this opportunity in the coming year.

Committee Representation

JCQTA has continued to have representation on the following educational committees:
- The Board of AccessEd (this has now ceased, with the formation of AccessEd as a Business Unit within EQ).
- The Consortium of the Board of Teacher Registration (including input into the recently released report, Networks at Work, a research report looking at how members’ professional knowledge both shaped and was shaped by their membership of networks).
- The Steering Committee of the Quality Teacher Program.
- The Middle Years of Schooling Coordinating Committee.
- Our parent body, the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teacher Associations.

Other Representation

In addition this year, JCQTA has been represented on:
- The Australian College of Education’s Teacher Standards, Quality and Professionalism reference group, including the national meeting of educators in April in Canberra.
- The Australian College of Education’s suite of four research projects on Vocational Learning.
- Education Queensland forums/reference groups including the Senior Certificate Project (culminating in the recently-released Pitman Report), and the Beginning Teachers Project.

Operational Issues

During the year a laptop computer was purchased to assist the Secretary with preparation of minutes and correspondence. The association’s financial records are now
maintained electronically using Quicken software, and our Treasurer has quickly become proficient in its use. Meetings continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month in Education House, where the refurbishment of Floor 12 as a meetings/conference facility has now been completed, and being used today for the first time by this Association.

Incoming Committee

As I will be stepping down as President this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each representative on the committee for their valued assistance, expertise and professionalism. In particular, I acknowledge with deep gratitude the assistance of the management group, especially Ros, Lorraine and Toni in their respective roles of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President. It has certainly been a team effort, and I wish the incoming committee all the very best for the year ahead.

Patricia Simmons
President