

Annual general meetings - 2001 AGM
19th September 2001

President's report

The past year has been a quieter one than the two previous ones for the Association, due mainly to the fact that there have been no major initiatives (national or state) in which we have been directly involved this year.

There was also a period of adjusting to the change in executive officers resulting from the resignation of the President, Richard Smith, in February, resulting in my stepping into the position from my role as Vice-President. Richard was successful in obtaining a new position quite out of the education area in another government department, thus resulting in his resignation from his position and as a member of this Association.

I would like to pay tribute to the tremendous work of Richard on our behalf over his many years' of membership on this Committee. Richard has been on the committee for all but the first couple of years of the life of the Association and has been a committed and tireless advocate of the interests of professional associations during that time. He has also occupied an executive position for a short time on our peak body, the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teacher Association. I am sure that you would all join with me in expressing our thanks to Richard and extending our best wishes to him in his new position.

Project PACT: Some activity in relation to this project continued throughout the final months of 2000, largely in relation to the implementation of the GST. Our project officer, Linda Francis, did an excellent job in organising workshops and information sessions for affiliates and other professional associations. All participants received a copy of the video kit prepared as part of this initiative of the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, to assist Treasurers and other officers in their record keeping processes. Participation in this initiative has also been beneficial for our Association as evidenced in the annual financial reports, with our funds in the strongest position they have ever been in during the life of the Association.

Committee Representation: Members of this Committee continue to sit on the following educational Committees:

- The Queensland Middle Schooling Project Co-ordinating Committee
- The Consortium of the Board of Teacher Registration
- The AccessEd Board, and
- The Queensland Teacher Professional (QTP) Project Steering Group.

In addition, Robert Lonergan and I participate in the meetings of our peak body, the AJCPTA, via Teleconferences held, usually, once per term. Regular reports of the activities of these groups are provided by our representatives at our monthly meetings, allowing us to be kept up-to-date on current educational issues, discussions and forums, as, for example, the issue of teacher standards as presented by our guest speakers this afternoon. Another area that the executive is keen to pursue is that of systemic support for professional associations. Here, through the AJCPTA, we have been able to obtain an overview of the situation in this regard in each of the other states. As a result, in this past month the Committee has written to the Minister for Education requesting a meeting at which this issue will be raised.

Membership: A focus in recent months has been on updating our membership base and

extending renewed invitations to specific associations to become affiliated. As a result, we have recently welcomed the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) Queensland Branch, the Queensland Association of Mathematics Teachers (QAMT) Inc., and the Queensland Guidance and Counselling Association (QGCA) to our affiliated associations list which now numbers twenty members.

I would personally like to thank those committee members who have faithfully attended the monthly meetings throughout the year for all the assistance and support they have given to me, since February in particular. Recent months have included one or two representatives from outside Brisbane participating by Teleconference, and this has contributed to a general overall increase in attendance this year. I also particularly wish to thank Nicola Johnson, our outgoing Treasurer, for the work she has performed in this role and wish her continuing success in the new administration role she is now undertaking in her school.

I believe our Association has an important role to play in advocacy and in providing advice on a wide range of issues affecting all teachers, and will continue to fulfil this role over the next twelve months and into the future. Our website is an invaluable tool for the dissemination of information and the publishing of relevant news, papers and information, and I urge all associations to make full use of this facility for keeping abreast of latest developments as well as for meeting documents and information. Thank you for your attendance here today.

Patricia Simmons
(Acting) President
19 September 2001