

Annual general meetings - 2000 AGM President's Report

The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations Inc. now represents 18 professional associations, an increase on the figures for 1999. Each year has seen an increase on the previous year. This is important if the Association wants to represent the views of all teachers through their professional associations.

I would like to thank our executive who so willingly gave time from a very busy schedule to promote the Joint Council and paid attention to all the things that needed to be done to ensure the Council ran smoothly. Our secretary, Ms Ros Korkatzis has been secretary of the Council since its inception. Our Treasurer has undertaken her role with commitment and hasn't balked, even when she knew the introduction of the new tax system would change the way associations operated for ever. Our Vice President has served the Council well in her role as a representative at important meetings, such as the Middle Years of Schooling meetings. Thanks to all members of the executive who made my job so much easier.

Our main focus over the last year has been Project PACT, the project developed by the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teacher Associations in partnership with the Australian College of Education and the National Education Forum. However, the association has been involved in other activities.

At the state level the Joint Council is represented on a range of education bodies including the Board of Teacher Registration Consortium, Open Access Unit Steering Committee, and the Coordinating Committee for the Queensland Middle Schooling Project. Our thanks go to all our representatives on these bodies. Their attendance and relaying of our collective view provides the opportunity for our voice to be heard. In turn, they bring back to the Council views from other education players.

The Joint Council continues to be an important distribution point for information impacting on its members both from a state and national level.

The modification of the JCQTA Web site, www.pa.ash.org.au/jcqta has enabled a more streamlined approach to the dissemination of information and made it easier for members to be communicate with each other and be more actively involved with the association. Executive members can adjust the information displayed on the Web site without having to request a Web designer to update material. Through the use of password protected access, members can modify information related to their own associations. The web site acts as the glue for members in between meetings.

At a national level JCQTA has had continued to provide input into the deliberations of the Australian Joint Council of Teacher Professional Associations (AJCTPA) through telemeetings held four times per year. In between these telemeetings, the AJCPTA has been very active in the AJCPTA through Project PACT. Further information on the AJCPTA may be obtained at the web site <http://www.ajcpta.edu.au> .

Project PACT (Professional Associations Complying Together) has provided the focus for most joint councils through out Australia over the past year. The project has provided members of JCQTA and professional teaching associations outside the Joint Council with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the new tax system and the requirements of

associations to comply with the new tax system.

In keeping with this, JCQTA has registered for an ABN and the GST. The benefits of doing this would seem to outweigh the reasons for not registering. While compliance will not overly impact on the Association, it does mean a Business Activity Statement must be completed every three months. The first of these is due within the next few weeks.

The organisation of Project PACT activities was very competently carried out by Ms Linda Francis and I would like to publicly acknowledge the excellent work she put into this project.

Looking Ahead

In looking back over the last year, I found that we had as a community achieved much - at the very least we now know enough about the new tax system to be able to complete a BAS.

The AJCPTA has completed a Business Plan and it would be a useful exercise for JCQTA to leverage off this and develop a JCQTA Business Plan. This will provide the opportunity for the Joint Council to review the reason for its existence.

Conclusion

The past year has again been interesting, enlightening and provided personal satisfaction. I would once again like to thank most earnestly all members of the Joint Council for the effort they have put in over the past year. In particular I wish to thank members of the Executive who have tirelessly provided that extra support when it was needed and without whose efforts the Joint Council would not function.

Richard Smith

President

Joint Council of Queensland Teachers' Associations