



JOINT COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2012

Another year has passed and the struggle for support and recognition of Professional Teacher Associations continues. One approach we could have taken is to surrender, “close shop” and offer limited services to our membership. I believe this would only lead to the JCQTA becoming irrelevant and eventually consign us to oblivion. Instead I am grateful to my predecessors for ensuring we are in a relatively sound financial state and can continue to offer professional development and networking opportunities to our member associations. The first of these was the *Presidents' Dinner* detailed below;

Presidents' Dinner

This year the Presidents' Dinner was held at the Milton PCYC at Suncorp Stadium. There were four presentations; Mark Campling and Janina Drazek spoke about the C2C modules and requested feedback (a brave move). The feedback from the associations was constructive particularly the concern about the workloads for primary school generalist teachers who had to take on three curriculum areas, English, Mathematics and Science. Alisa Clearly and Shane Albertson from *The Global Education Centre* outlined the role of the centre and how it could assist other teacher associations and schools. Janet Bannah presented on the Teacher Education Centres of Excellence and how they operated. Margaret Leary from the QCPCA (Queensland Council of Parent and Citizens Association) informed members about the work and funding arrangements of the organisation. The dinner provides an opportunity to hear from other organisations and identify ways to work with them to improve outcomes for members.

Representation and Responses

The JCQTA has sent a letter of introduction to the new Minister of Education but has yet to receive a reply. However, the Minister did attend some individual teacher association events and hopefully there will be an opportunity to arrange a face to face meeting in the future. There is continued JCQTA representation on committees such as SCSEEC (Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood), ACARA (Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority) Learning Areas and the association continues to liaise with AITSL (Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership) and QELI (Queensland Educational Leadership Institute).

APTA (Australian Professional Teachers Association)

In exciting news for the JCQTA Lyn Allsop, former long-serving JCQTA Treasurer was awarded the Dorothy Hoddinott Medal for outstanding contribution to professional services. I helped put together Lyn's nomination and was amazed that at one time she concurrently held the role of treasurer at three associations! Susan Hamilton Smith from ALEA received an award for Meritorious Contribution to the Profession. It is great to see a member from a regional area in Queensland recognised for the work they do with teachers and professional associations.

APTA put in a response to the *Draft Teacher Development and Performance Framework* produced by AITSL. This framework will impact on the work of teacher associations so I would encourage all associations to continue to monitor developments in this area. APTA is also in discussions with the NEF (National Education Forum) about changes taking place with its role and future direction.

JCQTA Flyers

My thanks to members who distributed these flyers at various tertiary institute events. An electronic version has been sent to Catholic Education.

Governance Workshop

Jackie Mergard (JCQTA secretary) organised a workshop on August 12 this year to assist associations with governance and succession issues. The presenter challenged attendees to think differently about the way that organisations operated. All that attended said it was most worthwhile.

JCTA Forum

To recognise the contribution made by the late Ros Korkatsis to the JCQTA our annual forum will now be known as the *Ros Korkatsis JCQTA Annual Forum*. Lesley Englert, Queensland representative on the ACARA board, was guest speaker at the 2011 Forum. Lesley gave an informative and friendly presentation which was well received by the audience. This was followed by discussion on the AITSL standards and the responses by individual associations to the AITSL document.

I always like to finish with a quote and came upon this one in my research on professionalism:

“in a market-based accountability model of education ... teachers... are often viewed not as professionals whose opinions should be valued but as underperforming obstacles to change.” Job, McCollow and Currie (2010)

So do teachers need to change (we are all just speed bumps on the road to progress according to some) or is a large cultural shift in how education is viewed required? I'm sure we all know the answer.

Caroline Brooks
August 2012