The Australian Alliance of Associations in Education (AAAE) continues to develop and work at playing an important role in advocating for the voice of national professional teacher associations in Australia.

Since the establishment of AAAE in November 2013 the following has happened/been achieved:

**Organisation development**

- AAAE became an [ASIC Company](#) in January 2014
- The [AAAE Strategic Plan](#) 2014-2017 was ratified at the June 2014 AAAE Forum in Adelaide. The review of the document shows that there is still much to do to reach the stated goals before 2017.
- AAAE has developed three [Position Papers](#):
  - Australian Curriculum
  - Indigenous Education
  - Teacher Education
- AAAE has developed [communication protocols](#) to ensure all members views are considered and respected during the development of Positions Papers and other decisions. The protocols, ratified at the June 2014 AAAE Forum contain agreed to methods of communication, time periods for consultation and stages of consultation.
- AAAE has developed a [Key Messages briefing document](#) that has been used as preparation for meetings with key stakeholders.
• **AAAE publicity**: AAAE has commissioned graphic designers to create a logo and develop a publicity brochure for associations across Australia to use to promote the work of AAAE on behalf of national professional associations. AAAE member associations are encouraged to place the AAAE logo on their websites with links to the AAAE website.

• **AAAE establishment has been achieved well within the Business Plan costing for the NEF/AAAE transition.** Financially, AAAE is in a similar position to where the NEF was when it morphed into the AAAE in November 2013.

**Key contacts**

- **Senator Penny Wright**, Greens Education Portfolio presented at the June AAAE meeting in Adelaide. Penny is very supportive of associations and has provided considerable information and ideas for the AAAE Board to consider.
- **Jayne Johnston**, CE Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) in Adelaide also presented at the June meeting. Jayne was very useful in discussing ideas about association being strategic with jurisdictions.
- On 13 November, the AAAE Chair and Will Marony met with **Kate Ellis**, Labor Shadow Education Minister and her education advisor. The role of professional teacher associations and AAAE views on the Australian Curriculum: Review were discussed. Kate has agreed to attend the AAAE meeting in Adelaide in July 2015.
- **John Hattie (AITSL Chair)** has agreed to present at a future AAAE meeting
- **Christopher Pyne continues to not respond to AAAE** requests to meet.

**2015 priorities**

- As a new organisation, AAAE is still developing its brand and making contact with key individuals and organisations. In 2015 it is envisaged that AAAE will need to **communicate more with state jurisdictions** to advocate for teacher associations to be invited and listened to on education matters. This strategy is particularly important to ensure that the recommendations of the Australian Curriculum: Review are not implemented by the States.

- Now that the AAAE is established, engagement with the media will be a key aspect of AAAE work in 2015 to support the AAAE Mission to:

  …to represent member national professional teacher associations, so that the voice of the teachers and educators they represent are heard by the appropriate statutory authorities and governments for the improvement of Australian educational policy and practice.

- **Other priorities for 2015 from the Strategic Plan**:
  - Increase the membership of AAAE via publicity and contacting former NEF members, such as APTA to reconsider membership status.
  - Consider conducting some form of professional learning as an association to increase AAAE profile and possible acquire funds to support the on-going work of AAAE.
  - Continue to make contact with key national stakeholders in education, such as Australian Government Department of Education, ACARA, ESA and AITSL.

Thank you to the Board for their dedicated work over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank AAAE Treasurer Emmy Terry for her work in establishing the AAAE financial processes. I wish Emmy all the best for the future as she retires from her position on the AAAE Board and from her role as the inaugural AAAE Treasurer. I would also like to thank all AAAE member associations for their support in the establishment and initial operational year of AAAE. Now that the AAAE is established and operating well we can look forward to a successful future as we strive to meet the goals of AAAE.

*Malcolm McInerney*
AAAE Chair
28 February 2014