Australian Alliance of Associations in Education established

With 24 national professional teaching associations as members, AAAE ensures their voices are heard.

THE AUSTRALIAN ALLIANCE OF Associations in Education (AAAE), a Company Limited by Guarantee, was established on 9 November 2013. This followed its original formation in 1992 as the National Education Forum (NEF), a grouping of like-minded national professional teaching associations.

The NEF had been an Australian gathering of over 35 national professional teaching associations, representing over 200,000 teachers across all jurisdictions in the primary, secondary and tertiary education sectors.

Malcolm McInerney, AAAE President, said there was a need to advance the former NEF. "Despite the perceived value of the NEF as a coalition providing an opportunity to share ideas and information, it became evident over more recent years that the NEF needed to morph into a more formal constituted entity with real representational status – a status for national recognition," McInerney stated.

After many months of discussion and assurances that an umbrella entity would enhance the work of individual national associations, rather than erode their influence, the Australian Alliance of Associations in Education (AAAE) was established. AAAE has 24 national professional teaching associations as members and is managed by a Board comprising seven elected Directors from the member associations.

The mission of the new entity is "to represent member national professional teachers' associations, so that their voice and 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."

With current developments in the Australian educational scene involving the review of the Australian Curriculum by the Federal Government, it is very opportune that the AAAE has now been founded. As a representative entity for many of the associations involved in developing the curriculum and educational policy, the AAAE is positioned to play an important role in ensuring its members are heard.

It is also noted with appreciation that John Peacock, General Manager of Associations Forum has attended some NEF meetings, and assisted with changes that have now successfully taken place.

The AAAE will work towards heightening the influence that professional teaching associations has on the changing Australian educational landscape, now and in the future. The new AAAE website was launched in March 2014. ***