



A Brief History of the New South Wales Council of Deans of Education

(formerly the NSW Teacher Education Council)

Overview

The NSW Teacher Education Council (TEC), the antecedent of the present NSW Council of Deans of Education, was established in 1987. It operated continuously as the TEC until 2011, when it became the NSW Council of Deans of Education (NSWCDE). In 2012, the Council celebrated its 25th year at its Armidale conference hosted by the University of New England, and here it was suggested that the Council may be the most enduring of all the Education Deans groups established in Australia.

As the TEC, the Council had a broad membership base, defined by its constitution, comprising deans, heads and education academics from all member institutions. With the change to the NSWCDE, the Council's membership became more limited and focused, confined to NSW deans, heads of school or those with responsibility for education within their institution. Nonetheless, the new entity, the NSWCDE, maintained the more general involvement of education academics through its annual conference, which considers important issues of the day and encourages emerging academic leaders in education.

This history provides a brief account of the establishment of the Council, some of the key issues and challenges it has faced, some of the key people who have contributed to the Council, the role of regional universities within the Council, the annual conference, and the development of the Council's constitution and structure.

Several appendices, incomplete and still under development, add further detail in relation to these themes. Indeed, it is the intention of the Council that this document might be constantly reviewed and updated, as more information from those who have served on the Council becomes available.

Establishment of the Council

Prior to 1982, the vast majority of teacher education programs in NSW (and throughout Australia) were within the Colleges of Advanced Education (CAEs), often within specialised education institutions such as, for example, Sydney Teachers College and Alexander Mackie CAE. Universities also had such programs but the relationship between universities and the colleges was relatively distant, even in cases where the colleges and universities were co-located. Between 1981 and 1988 a series of reforms at both State, but more importantly at Commonwealth levels, led to a series of amalgamations of higher education institutions. In some instances, Colleges were amalgamated into universities, and in other cases, amalgamated Colleges themselves became new universities. Teacher education programs in both instances were now housed in multidisciplinary institutions.

It was during this period of turbulence that the New South Wales Teacher Education Council (TEC) was formed.

Prior to 1987 three loose associations represented teacher education programs in NSW. The Committee of Senior Academic Administrators in Teacher Education (COMSAATE) met annually with the aim of providing mutual support for its members - almost exclusively from the Colleges of Advanced Education - though there was some involvement from the University of Sydney Faculty of Education, which itself was formed in 1986.

A second organisation was the Australian Association of Directors of Teacher Education Programs, though some of the early participants have described this as more of an annual meeting, at which it was common for directors to have a holiday accompanied by their partners.

In addition there was an organisation of Teacher Education heads in rural regions that included teacher education programs in all states from both CAEs and universities.

In 1987, with the publication of the Dawkins-inspired Higher Education Green Paper that mooted the changes referred to above, a number of Directors of teacher education programs recognised the need to form an association that would have some influence - both in bringing teacher education schools and faculties into line with other professional disciplines in universities, and in attempting to make a contribution to education policy in NSW. The Principal of Kuring-ai CAE, Tony Blake (then also President of COMSAATE), Director of Teacher Education at Macquarie University, Brian Low and the Dean of Education at Charles Sturt University, Bob Meyenn, were the primary instigators of the meeting to set up the TEC and were supported by a number of other program directors such as Don Williams from Macarthur CAE and Alan Taylor from Newcastle.

The TEC was formed officially in 1988 with Tony Blake as its first President.

Development of the Council and Key Issues and Challenges

The influence of the TEC increased in 1990 with the appointment of Virginia Chadwick as Minister in NSW, replacing Terry Metherill. Bob Meyenn, one of the early Presidents of the TEC, recently recalled the close cooperation between the TEC and the Minister and direct contact with Directors General of Education during this Minister's term of office between 1990 and 1995. Members of TEC were appointed to the first Ministerial Advisory committee.

Other prominent contributors to the TEC during the period from 1990 to 2000, including some who held office, were Judith Parker, Christine Deer, Ken Eltis, Gordon McLeod, Terry Lovat and Tony Cross.

When the Labor government was elected in 1995 John Aquilina was appointed Minister for Education. The TEC worked closely with this Minister, who continued to appoint TEC members to the variety of reviews of teacher education and education that took place over the seven years of his Ministry (until 2001).

In this period the TEC was prominent in advancing thinking about and action on a number of issues. A key issue was to achieve adequate funding practicum (professional experience school placement) component of teacher education programs. In 1998, the TEC held the first Forum that brought together all the key players – the TEC, the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET), the NSW Teachers Federation and the Australian Education Union. This seemed to be the first time that the DET and the unions recognised the financial impost of the practicum on the providers of initial teacher education providers. Sharon Burrow was Australian Education Union President at the time and took the matter up with the wider union bodies, including ACTU. There was much talk but no real action but, in time, it was the resultant combined voice that was eventually heard by the Federal Minister (Nelson) and at least partly impelled the \$129m to support professional experience that came with the 2004 Federal Budget (eventually known as IPCTE).

A further issue was the movement towards double degrees. There was much activity among the various higher education institutions to move from old patterns of pre-binary system awards to ones that made better use of the combined forces to be found in the new universities, most especially in the typically closer relations between Education faculties and schools within universities and the likes of Faculties of Arts and Science. Typically, this took the form of the 'double degree' and the rights and wrongs of such mechanisms tended to be debated at TEC meetings and conferences.

The 2000s

Between 2001 and 2005, the Presidents of the TEC were Jenny Gore of the University of Newcastle, Toni Downes, then of the University of Western Sydney (UWS), and Andrew Gonczi of the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). During this period the major focus of the work of the TEC was responding to the Ramsay review of teacher education and collaborating with the interim committee for the NSW Institute of Teachers. This work included responses to the set of consultation documents proposed in relation to the Institute's role in accrediting teacher education programs and graduates, including draft standards for teachers. In addition the TEC was represented on the joint Committee on Quality Teaching and various other committees such as the Professional Experience Roundtable and committee on internship arrangements.

From the mid-2000s, an important feature of TEC activity centred on its contribution to and through the NSW Institute of Teachers (the Institute), which was established in 2006. Under the early leadership of the first CEO of the Institute, Tom Alegonarias, and then most markedly under the enlightened leadership of his successor, Patrick Lee, members of the TEC were able to effectively participate in, consult on, and influence, the government's agenda to regulate initial teacher education. Lee's commitment to working with universities and not engaging in the populist 'blame game; and media sport of teacher bashing enabled the building of an effective partnership under which teacher education providers could effectively contribute to the development of standards, and standards to govern the quality of teacher education programs in NSW. While some within universities may have seen these standards as unnecessarily intrusive and onerous, many on the Council at that time felt that without the involvement of the Council, these standards could have been far less palatable to higher education institutions.

As it was, the TEC gained 50% of membership of the Initial Teacher Education Committee (ITEC) of the Institute, where a lot of this work was done, and two TEC presidents, Joanne Reid (Charles Sturt University - CSU) and Maria Nicholson (Australian Catholic University) proved to be most effective Chairs of the ITEC. Other TEC presidents and executive to have served significant periods on ITEC include Paul Chandler (University of Wollongong), Steve Wilson (UWS), Robyn Ewing (University of Sydney) and Peter Aubusson (UTS).

The quality standards (and how to determine they have been attained) that should govern the graduation, employment and accreditation of teachers (particularly new graduate teachers), and standards for teacher education programs were, and remain, contentious and difficult issues. There still seems to be a feeling in the general community, and indeed in the teaching profession, that what teacher training mostly requires is a lot of 'on the job' practice and experience, and that university-based teacher education is unnecessarily theoretical. Conversely, many teacher educators within universities are committed to the education of well informed and theoretically strong graduates who can exercise leadership, who can think outside the square and

successfully innovate, and who can exercise strong and critical professional judgement and critique and influence the policy of the day. These dichotomies of view in relation to 'quality' in teacher education remain. Indeed, the debates of 2013-15 confronting the NSW CDE are now about what quality standards should govern the *acceptance* of intakes into initial teacher education programs, and these issues do not look like being resolved easily.

The Role of Regional Universities

The participation of regional universities has always been a significant and important aspect of the Council. Regional universities often have a strong equity agenda and commitment to increasing the participation of low socio-economic status groups in higher education, reflecting the fact that participation rates are generally lower for in country and regional areas.

Some of the most potent leadership of the Council has come from regional institutions (Bob Meyenn from CSU, Terry Lovat from Newcastle, Jenny Gore from Newcastle, and Joanne Reid from CSU, to name a few), and regional members have had a major impact on the directions the Council has taken and the impact it has had. Stories of Bob Meyenn flying down from Bathurst to meet with the Minister or Director-General of Education in Sydney about some pressing issue are legend, and such commitment has set the tone for all subsequent leaders of the Council.

It is testimony to the commitment of regional members of the Council that they travel long and challenging distances not only to attend the monthly Council Executive meeting, which is always held in Sydney, but to attend other bodies such as ITEC, TQAP, and ministerial advisory committees. In the 21st century, the prevalence of video-conferencing has made the life of regional representatives a little easier in this regard.

The Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the NSW TEC/NSWCDE has been its key event of the year, and a forum at which key issues of importance can be investigated, information shared, policy and strategic directions discussed, and best practice showcased. It is usually attended not only by the Deans and Heads of School of member institutions, but also by faculty Executive members and other academics who have an interest in higher education and education policy, or who might be emerging leaders in their own institutions.

Each year the annual conference is offered on behalf of the Council by a host institution at a location of its choosing (usually a campus of that institution – refer to Appendix B for

a list of annual conference venues and hosting institutions). It is enshrined in the historical practices of the Council that the conference rotates each other year from a Sydney institution to a regional one. This has proven to be a successful formula, and conferences are well attended by Ministers of Education, senior education bureaucrats and policy makers, and educators and academics from other states and nations, who often provide formal addresses at the conference.

The annual conference is, as specified in the Constitution of the Council, the site of the Annual Business Meeting of the Council. Here, amongst other business, the annual election of Council office bearers occurs.

Annual conference has for many years been marked by its final day comprising a 'professional experience roundtable', where member institutions consider issues, problems and solutions relating to the funding and conduct of professional experience placements and activity in schools. Annual conference has also been an opportunity for institutions to showcase their best practices and innovations in teacher education. These often showcase the nature partnerships that member institutions have developed with schools and the benefits that occur when schools and tertiary institutions work closely together in guiding the development of student teachers.

Development of the Council's Constitution and Structure

The first Constitution of the NSW Teacher Education Council was adopted on December 21st, 1987 and served the Council without significant amendment for many years (see Appendix D for the updated 2011 constitution of the NSWCE). The constitution stipulated that in addition to the director of each teacher education provider there should be two members from each institution, one of whom must be female. This was a measure to provide balance to the reality that the majority of staff in teacher education programs were women but that most directors of teacher education were men.

This provision that the Council comprised 'ordinary' members from institutions as well as faculty leaders was expanded in further years, with each institution being able to nominate (and pay a notional nomination fee for) up to five such members each year. In reality, these members had little involvement in Council beyond the annual conference, to which all members were invited.

The Council's constitution stipulates that an individual may not serve in a leadership position for more than two successive annual terms. Designed to increase the participation of all deans and heads of school by providing enhanced opportunities for leadership involvement, this has led to a regular turnover of Executive roles on the Council, and has been a healthy aspect of the Council's structure.

Council governance has traditionally centred on monthly meetings of heads of teacher education. In between these, an Executive of three, comprising the President, Secretary-

Treasurer and two other elected members, looked after business. In 2007, a revision to the constitution was passed which expanded the Executive to comprise the Dean, head of school or head of teacher education at each member institution. This had the effect of empowering the monthly meeting to function as an executive meeting and empowering general participation and ongoing decision-making this meeting.

In 2011 it was felt by Executive that the TEC was not a well-understood organisation in the public domain, and that as a result its capacity to work effectively in the policy and political spheres was constrained. Additionally, it was felt that the nomenclature of 'teacher education' insufficiently captured the broad scope and complexity of programs and research work undertaken by contemporary education faculties and schools. As a result, a proposal was put by Executive to the 2011 annual business meeting to re-name Council as the NSW Council of Deans of Education (reflecting the nomenclature of the national body and those in most other states), and to limit membership to the Dean, Head of School or head of education of each member institution. While this meant effectively discontinuing the long-standing category of 'ordinary' member, the proposal was passed by the membership in 2011. This constitutional change also created the additional Executive role of Vice-President, and split the roles of Secretary and Treasurer.

A further outcome of the 2011 meeting was an expressed commitment to continue to invite a cross section of education academic leaders and emerging leaders from all member institutions (the previous 'ordinary' members) to the annual conference and involve them in discussing issues confronting the NSW Council of Deans of Education.

Currently, the NSW Council of Deans of Education works collaboratively with policymakers (including politicians; the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards, formerly the NSW Institute of Teachers; and the NSW Vice-Chancellors Committee) , teachers' unions, schools, school systems, and other stakeholders to advise upon and implement best practice in teacher education across New South Wales, to ensure that the state remains a leader in teacher education nationally and internationally.

Contributors to this very brief history

This short account of the history of the NSW TEC / CDE has been constructed from written accounts provided by the following contributors: Professors Andrew Gonczi, Terry Lovat, Don Williams and Geoff Riordan, some of whose verbatim text has been used in the account. Andrew Gonczi's account was based on telephone interviews with several TEC Executive members from the 1990s, and forms the basis of the section titled 'Establishment of the Council'. The overall draft and bulk of the account was crafted by Professor Steve Wilson in 2012 and revised by Executive Officer Katherine Thompson in 2015.

Appendix A (incomplete*): Council Office Bearers

NSW Teacher Education Council

Year	President	Sec/Treasurer
1988-9	Tony Blake (Kurin-gai CAE)	
1989-90		
1990-01		
1991-02		
1992-03		
1993-04		
1994-05	Don Williams (UWS)	
1995-6	Don Williams (UWS)	
1996-7	Terry Lovat (Newcastle)	
1997-8	Terry Lovat (Newcastle)	
1998-9	Bob Meyenn (CSU)	
1999-00	Bob Meyenn (CSU)	
2000-01	Jenny Gore (Newcastle)	
2001-02	Jenny Gore (Newcastle)	
2002-03	Andrew Gonczi (UTS)	
2003-4	Toni Downes (UWS)	Noelene Weatherby-Fell (SCU)
2004-5	Toni Downes (UWS)	Noelene Weatherby-Fell (SCU)
2005-6	Joanne Reid (CSU)	Noelene Weatherby-Fell (SCU)
2006-7	Joanne Reid (CSU)	Noelene Weatherby-Fell (SCU)
2007	Geoff Riordan (UTS)	Marea Nicholson (ACU)
2008	Paul Chandler (UNSW)	Marea Nicholson (ACU)

2008-9	Marea Nicholson (ACU)	Steve Wilson (UWS)
2009-10	Marea Nicholson (ACU)	Steve Wilson (UWS)
2010-11	Steve Wilson (UWS)	Peter Aubusson (UTS)

NSW Council of Deans of Education

Year	President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
2011-12	Steve Wilson (UWS)	Peter Aubusson (UTS)	Peter Beamish	Chris Davison (UNSW)
2012-13	Peter Aubusson (UTS)	Chris Davison (UNSW)	Peter Beamish	Steve Tobias (UNE)
2013-14	Peter Aubusson (UTS)	Chris Davison (UNSW)	Peter Beamish	Steve Tobias (UNE)
2014-15	Chris Davison (UNSW)	Gordon Browne (UOW)	Marguerite Maher (UND)	Lindsay Parry (CSU)

*Requires checking and verification – some recollections of previous members seem to be at odds

Appendix B: Annual Conferences and their Host Institutions*

Year	Conference venue	Host Institution
1996	Bankstown	U Western Sydney
1997	Armidale	U New England
1998	Strathfield	Australian Catholic U
1999	Newcastle	U Newcastle
2001	Wagga Wagga	Charles Sturt U
2000	Kuring-gai	U Technology Sydney
2002	Wollongong?	U Wollongong
2003	Ballina	Southern Cross U
2004	Kensington	U of NSW
2005	North Sydney?	Australian Catholic U
2006	Bathurst	Southern Cross U
2007	Sydney	U Sydney
2008	Newcastle	U Newcastle
2009	Parramatta	U Western Sydney
2010	Bathurst	Charles Sturt U
2011	Sydney	Macquarie U
2012	Armidale	U New England
2013	North Sydney	Australian Catholic U
2014	Coolangatta	Southern Cross U
2015	Sydney	U Sydney

* Requires checking and verification. For example, Geoff Riordan feels that a conference in the early 2000s was at UTS.

Appendix C: Life Members

Year Awarded	Recipient	Institution of Recipient
xxxx	Professor Bob Meyenn	Charles Sturt University
2012	Professor Terry Lovat	University of Newcastle
2013	Professor Don Williams	University of Western Sydney
2014	Professor Steve Wilson	University of Western Sydney

Appendix D: Constitution of the NSW CDE (2011)

The Constitution of the New South Wales Council of Deans of Education

(formerly the NSW Teacher Education Council)

TEC Constitution adopted 21st December 1987 - Amended 5th June 2007

Amended NSW CDE Constitution adopted 6th June 2011

1. NAME

The name of the Council shall be "The New South Wales Council of Deans of Education". The initials NSW CDE or NCDE may be used as the short title for the Council where abbreviation is appropriate.

2. INTERPRETATIONS

In this constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

"COUNCIL" means the New South Wales Council of Deans of Education.

"DEANS OF TEACHER EDUCATION" means those Deans, Heads of School, or persons in higher education holding the most senior position of direct responsibility for the development, implementation and monitoring of teacher education programs.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council is to promote the continued development of education programs and research, including pre-service and in-service teacher education programs, by such means as:

- a. Providing a forum in which Deans of Education and others concerned with education meet to share information about education,
- b. Facilitating collaboration in education including facilitating collaboration of special interest groups within education,
- c. Encouraging and supporting research in education,
- d. Establishing mechanisms for monitoring the quality and status of education in New South Wales,
- e. Debating education issues of policy and administration,

- f. Providing independent professional comment and advice to Government and other agencies on issues in education,
- g. Providing an informed public voice on matters associated with education,
- h. Affiliating with other organizations with interests in education.

4. SERVICES

In order to fulfil the stated purpose of the Council, NSWCDE shall organise an annual meeting of members during which the annual business session shall be conducted and shall provide other services such as a quarterly newsletter, occasional seminars, annual conference and symposium.

5. MEMBERSHIP

In order to fulfil the stated purpose of the Council, NSWCDE shall be an association of the Deans of Education in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory as defined in Section 2 of this Constitution, as well as life members.

6. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

The admission of members shall be decided upon by the Executive Committee of the NSWCDE which shall cause a register of membership to be kept.

7. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The nomination of a candidate for Life Membership shall be the right of the Executive Committee on the recommendation of any member. The Nominee shall have been a Member of the Council, although life membership has no direct relation with retirement from active employment as an educator.

The honour is awarded for outstanding service over an extended period to the New South Wales Council of Deans of Education. Such nominations must be supported by sufficient evidence of outstanding service as to enable all members who are not fully aware of the nominee's service to make an accurate assessment of the qualifications and service of the nominee.

The ratification of election of a person to Life Membership of the NSWCDE shall be the prerogative of the Council at the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee will make its recommendation to the membership prior to the Annual Business Session. Election to Life Membership shall normally be by means of a show of hands or an electronic or

postal vote of the membership after a recommendation. The election of a Life Member shall be announced at the Annual Dinner of the NSW CDE immediately following the election.

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions to be paid by members or their sponsoring institutions shall be fixed at the Annual Business Session of the Council.

9. AFFILIATIONS

The Council may affiliate with such other bodies; local, State, National or International as may be desirable in order to further its purpose.

10. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS SESSION

The meeting of the members at the Annual Business Session shall determine the main lines of policy of the Council, shall have the power to direct the management of the Council's affairs and subject to this constitution shall regulate the Council's own proceedings. The quorum for conducting business at the Annual Business Session shall be ten persons listed in the register of membership of the Council.

11. OFFICE BEARERS

The office bearers of the Council shall be:

- a. President, who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Council and preside at all meetings of the Council and its Executive Committee,
- b. Vice-President, who shall be delegated the responsibilities of President during the President's absence,
- c. Secretary who shall keep and maintain general records and correspondence of the Council, and oversee the maintenance of the Council's web site.
- d. Treasurer, who shall receive all monies and deposit the same in a bank approved by the Executive Committee, payout monies in payment of obligations of the Council and present an audited financial report to a meeting of members at the Annual Business Session. The office bearers shall be elected by the meeting of members at the Annual Business Session and shall hold office for the period of time between annual elections. Incumbent office bearers of the Council are eligible for re-election provided that a maximum period of two consecutive years is served in one position. An office bearer who is not a Dean of Education will be entitled to seek reimbursement from the NSW CDE for their Institution of travel expenses to attend Executive Meetings.

12. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

All members of the NSW CDE shall serve as the Executive Committee of the Council responsible to the meeting of members at the Annual Business Session for the conduct of the affairs of the Council between meetings, and shall have the power, subject to this constitution, to regulate its own proceedings and convene general meetings of members.

The Executive Committee shall comprise:

- The President
- The Vice-President
- The Secretary
- The Treasurer
- The Immediate Past President
- The NSW CDE Conference Organiser for the current year
- The Dean or a representative of each member Institution.

Members of the Executive Committee shall participate in the proceedings of the Executive Committee and undertake such tasks as determined by that committee from time to time.

13. VACANCIES

If the office of President, Secretary/Treasurer becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall elect from its remaining members a person to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Business Session.

If the office of any one of the Executive Members becomes vacant prior to the calling of an Annual Business Session, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy by invitation and appointment of a person on the membership register of the Council.

14. EQUITY REPRESENTATION

The NSW CDE shall through its procedure, subcommittees, working parties and nominees strive to ensure effective equity of representation for women and other target groups under current Equal Employment Opportunity legislation, and for Sydney-based and non-capital universities. The NSW CDE Executive Committee shall have the power to nominate representatives and to co-opt additional members to any committee of sub-committee or working party in order to ensure that these equity representation provisions are effectively addressed, and shall report on such actions to the general membership.

15. FINANCE

The Executive Committee shall control the finances of the Council. The Executive Committee shall pass or ratify all accounts for payment and any disbursements not ratified by the Executive Committee will be the personal responsibility of the signatories to the cheque or cheques concerned. All disbursements of money other than petty cash shall be by cheque on the Council's bankers signed by the Secretary/Treasurer and one other person approved by the Executive Committee.

An appropriate person who is not a member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed as the Council Auditor at the Annual Business Session.

16. TRANSFER OF OFFICE

All books, records and assets of the Council, with the exception of Council affairs in the process of being finalised, shall be handed over to the incoming Secretary/Treasurer within twenty one days of the termination of the Annual Business Session and the balance shall be transferred within two months of the same.

17. VOTING RIGHTS

- a. The President shall have both a deliberative vote and a casting vote at all meetings of the Council and it's Executive. In general, it is expected that the President when exercising the right of placing a casting vote shall vote in favour of the status quo. When this is not so the President shall explain to the members of the Council at the next Annual Business Session the reason for the action taken.
- b. Executive Committee members shall have the right to one deliberative vote on each issue/election being decided at an Executive Committee meeting or at a general meeting of members.
- c. Life Members are not entitled to vote on Council matters.

18. WINDING UP

In the event of changes circumstances in which continuation of the Council is no longer of interest or benefit to members a simple majority of votes taken at the Annual Business Session may recommend to members disbandment of the Council. Such recommendation shall be communicated to all persons listed in the register of members and after a lapse of at least one month, shall be considered by members at an Extraordinary Business Session. If disbandment is endorsed at the Extraordinary Business Session the distribution of monies and other assets shall be determined concurrently. The quorum for conducting business at an Extraordinary Business Session shall be the lesser of ten or one half plus one of those persons listed in the register of membership of the Council.

29. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be made only by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Annual Business Session. The texts proposed of amendments must be presented in writing to the Secretary so that they may be sent with recommendations from the Executive Committee to all members at least one month before such a meeting. Members unable to attend the Annual Business Session may vote on the proposed amendment/s by correspondence.