### Board Meeting: Friday 29 May 2020

### Venue: Boardroom, 14th Floor, Mitchell Centre Darwin

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| Item No | Agenda Item | Summary of discussions |
| 1 | **Attendance** |  |
| 1.1 | **Present – members** | Ralph Wiese**,** Mary Ellen Venes, Mark Monaghan, Rachel Boyce, Jacqui Langdon, Leanne Nixon   * Charles Richardson – via teleconference * Cheryl Salter – via Skype |
| 1.2 | **Apologies - members** | Tabitha Fudge, Pauline Schober, Annette Gillanders |
| 1.3 | **Present – non-member participants** | Ms Susan Bowden, Executive Director Early Years and Education Services; Ms Sally Hodgson, General Manager Teaching and Learning; Ms Anne Donnelly, Director Teaching and Learning 10-12; Mrs Hazel Horne, Executive Officer to the Board |
| 2 | **Opening remarks** | Meeting commenced at 8.40 am with Acknowledgement of Country provided by the Chair, Mr Ralph Wiese.  Ms Amagula, a respected school and Department of Education employee who recently passed away, was acknowledged for the extraordinary contributions she made to education in the NT and on Groote Eylandt. |
| 3 | **Minutes of the previous meeting** | The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2019 were circulated to members out of session and accepted as a true record of the meeting.  The Hon Selena Uibo MLA, Minister for Education noted the confirmed minutes.  The confirmed minutes are available on the NTBOS webpage link at <https://education.nt.gov.au/committees,-regulators-and-advisory-groups/northern-territory-board-of-studies/ntbos-publications>. |
| 4 | **Business arising from previous minutes** | **Refer to Action Sheet 4/2019**  All items were either completed or were agenda items to be addressed at the meeting. |
| 5 | **Correspondence** | Correspondence in: noted  Correspondence out: noted |
| 6 | **NTBOS Governance** | Conflict of interest: Nil |
| 7 | **Presentations and discussion** |  |
| 7.1 | Meet and greet:  Department of Education Chief Executive | Ms Karen Weston joined the Department of Education as the Chief Executive from South Australia’s Department of Education on 23 March 2020. Ms Weston has more than 20 years’ experience in the education sector, with particular expertise in early childhood education and broader school reforms.  Ms Weston was introduced to board members and shared information on the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing planning for terms 3 and 4, boarding schools and the proposed review of the Australian Curriculum. |
| 7.2 | **Presentation:**  Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration | Ms Edwina Spanos, Acting Senior Director, Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Education provided information on the new *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration.*  The *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration* was launched by Education Council Ministers at Larapinta Primary School in Alice Springs on 12 December 2019. The launch followed a significant public consultation process across Australia as part of the Review of the Melbourne Declaration.  The *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration* sets out the national vision for education and the commitment of Australian governments to improve educational outcomes.  Ministers agreed on two goals for the education system:   * Goal 1 –promote excellence and equity; and * Goal 2 – enable all Australians to become confident and creative individuals, successful learners and active and informed members of the community.   To track the Declaration, Education Council agreed to convene a national forum biennially with education stakeholders to showcase best practice, success stories and progress against the goals outlined in the declaration. |
| 7.3 | Professor Martin Westwell, SACE Board Chief Executive | Professor Martin Westwell, Chief Executive SACE Board addressed members via Skype, providing information about measures undertaken by the SACE Board to address issues presented during the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| 7.4 | Employment Pathways Framework Certificate of Completion – feedback on the trial | Employment Pathways is an NTBOS approved curriculum for Aboriginal secondary students from remote communities. The Department of Education has developed a Certificate of Completion for students who complete Year 12. The certificate records the students’ outcomes for Years 10-12 and subsequent years if needed. An Employment Pathways matrix was developed to determine completion. The matrix was trialled in November and December 2019 with three schools that reported having Year 12 students.  **Outcome:**  The Board noted the outcomes of the 2019 trial. |
| 7.5 | EAL/D Learning Progressions | The Northern Territory English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) Learning Progressions are the result of a two year project to align the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework English as a Second Language (ESL) levels to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority EAL/D Learning Progressions. The aim of the project was to simplify the process for assessing and reporting on students for whom English is an additional language or dialect in NT Government schools.  The project was approved by NTBOS at its November 2018 meeting.  Ms Jenny Luck, Differentiation and EAL/D Officer, Department of Education attended the meeting to provide members with an update on the project.  Members were advised that approximately 100 NT Government schools and 18 schools from the Catholic Education sector engaged with the new learning progressions. The feedback from principals and teachers was overwhelmingly positive. The new learning progressions are now ready for full implementation. The implementation process is supported by a detailed communication strategy and risk analysis plan approved by the Chief Executive, Department of Education in January 2020.  The project is now completed, and from Semester 1, 2020, the NT EAL/D Learning Progressions will replace the NT Curriculum Framework ESL levels for assessing and reporting on EAL/D students in Northern Territory Government schools. |
| 7.6 | NAPLAN Online 2020 update | Education Ministers met on 20 March 2020 and decided that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NAPLAN would not take place in 2020. The NAPLAN test window was scheduled to be held from 12 to 22 May 2020.  Paper NAPLAN tests for 2020 have been securely stored in Victoria and will be available for use in 2021.  The cancellation of NAPLAN in 2020 has implications for the conduct of NAPLAN in 2021 both nationally and in the Northern Territory. After decisions are made by Education Council, planning for 2021 can commence.  **Low and no bandwidth solutions**  A product has been developed for schools with internet connectivity issues. The NT continues to be involved in supporting the development and testing of the product.  NAPLAN coordinators at ten schools had been trained in the use of the low and no bandwidth solution prior to the cancellation of NAPLAN. Plans are being developed, in consultation with other jurisdictions, for face to face and distance training models for NAPLAN coordinators in low and no bandwidth schools in the future. |
| 7.7 | **Presentation:**  2019 NAPLAN National Report results for the NT and 2020 My School release | The 2019 NAPLAN National Report was publicly released by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority on 25 January 2020. The report provides final data from testing undertaken by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 nationally in May 2019.  Mr Simon George, Senior Manager Strategic Reporting and Analysis, Department of Education provided an overview of the 2019 NAPLAN National Report results.  2020 My School release: to meet Education Council requirements for changes to My School, a new methodology was developed to present data in My School that provides a greater focus on student progress, rather than comparisons of statistically similar schools. |
| 7.8 | Review of school term date structures | In April 2019, a pulse check was undertaken by the Department of Education to determine the effect on schools of a new term date structure for 2021-25. Due to an oversight, consultation was not undertaken with key stakeholders prior to the announcement of the new term date structure of four ten-week terms for the period 2021 to 2025. This oversight is being rectified through a review of school term structures to determine the term dates for the period 2023 to 2027.  The 2021 and 2022 term dates will follow the revised ten-week per term structure, with term dates for 2023 and beyond to be determined from the review. |
|  |  | Quality School Systems and Support (QSSS) is leading the review and will consult directly with key stakeholders. Ms Pauline Ford, Acting Director Quality School Systems and Support attended the meeting to discuss the term date structures.  **Outcome:**  Members endorsed the ten-week term structure for the period 2023 to 2027.  A working group has been established. Feedback will be provided to QSSS by 26 June 2020 on the structure of school holidays from 2023 to 2027.  **Action:**  Executive Officer to organise working group meeting. |
| 7.9 | **Presentation:**  NTCET 2019 outcomes (overview of results) | Ms Anne Donnelly, Director Teaching and Learning 10-12 provided an overview of 2019 Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) results which were released in December 2019.  Information was provided on:   * *NT students receiving an NTCET*: 1454 students – highest ever completion rate. * *NT Aboriginal students receiving an NTCET*: 27 students – highest ever completion rate. * NTCET completers who used Modified subjects. * *Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)*: 848 NT students qualified for an ATAR. * *Vocational education and training* (VET): 735 of NTCET completers studied VET at some time during their senior secondary schooling. * *A+ Merits awarded in the NT:* 47 A+ Merits were awarded in 2019 compared to 31 in 2018. |
| 7.10 | NTBOS award subject and selection criteria refinement | Prior to the 2019 NTBOS award selection processes being implemented, officers from the Teaching and Learning 10-12 team refined NTBOS award titles in conjunction with Executive Officer NTBOS. The awards have been renamed to align with SACE subject renewals which resulted in new subjects being offered and others being discontinued. The affected award sponsors were contacted and were happy for their award to be renamed to more accurately reflect their sponsorship.  The selection criteria for all NTBOS awards was reviewed post the 2019 awards to ensure consistency of selection across all subject areas. The selection criteria for each award now ensures that the highest achiever in each award category is eligible to receive the award, that is, if a student completes a Stage 2 NTCET subject in Year 11 and is the highest overall achiever, they are eligible to receive the award.  **Outcome:**  **Revised selection criteria - endorsed**  The selection criteria for use in determining all NTBOS award winners for 2020 onwards was endorsed by members. |
| 8 | **Items for Noting** |  |
| 8.1 | SACE report- February 2020 | Mr Trevor Read, NT SACE Board representative provided a report for noting on SACE Strategic Planning 2020‑23 and 2019 SACE results and release data.  **Paper noted** |
| 8.2 | SACE Modernisation | The SACE Board continues to implement its modernisation agenda through transforming electronic assessment and quality assurance processes. The report provided information on the tested implementation model for movement to an online environment for submission and assessment, PLATO (Professional Learning in Assessment and Teaching Online), PLATO Social and the suite of Stage 2 subjects that will have an online examination in 2020.  **Paper noted** |
| 8.3 | ACARA report | The key issues from the ACARA report, provided by Ms Leanne Nixon, Deputy Chief Executive Department of Education and ACARA representative, were – the Review of the Australian Curriculum, the postponement of NAPLAN and NAPLAN Online and the associated potential risks.  **Paper noted** |
| 8.4 | 2019 NTBOS awards report | Ceremonies to acknowledge 2019 NTBOS awardees were held in Alice Springs and Darwin early February 2020 to publically recognise the achievements of the year’s outstanding students. A report for noting was provided on the awards presented and the costs incurred to hold the award functions.  **Paper noted** |
| 8.5 | NT Indigenous Languages and Cultures Curriculum – feedback on the 2019 trial | In 2019 the NTBOS approved *Keeping Indigenous Languages and Cultures Strong – A Plan for teaching and learning Indigenous Languages and Cultures in the NT*. An NT curriculum was developed and trialled in 2018. Dr Ailsa Purdon, Senior Manager Bilingual Education and Indigenous Languages and Cultures provided a report on the implementation of the policy and curriculum for teaching Indigenous languages and cultures in NT schools.  Work continues on the development of curriculum support materials. A major focus for 2020 is working with schools to ensure that the current programs are sustainable.  **Paper noted** |
| 8.6 | Promotion of Charles Darwin University sponsorship - new top ten ATAR awards | Professor Simon Maddocks, Vice-Chancellor Charles Darwin University (CDU) attended the November 2019 board meeting to provide information on a new sponsorship proposal for the top 10 ATAR students. Board members subsequently endorsed the proposal and requested CDU provide them with additional information about how the new award would be promoted in 2020.  Professor Maddocks provided an information paper outlining the proposed CDU promotional timelines for the inaugural CDU Vice-Chancellor’s top ten ATAR awards for 2020 graduating students.  **Outcome:**  Members endorsed the proposed promotional timelines.  **Action:**  Executive Officer to advise Professor Maddocks. |
| 9 | **General Business** |  |
| 9.1 | NTBOS Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020 | Chair informed members that the NTBOS Strategic Plan 2018-20 is due for review. It was agreed that the reviewing of the plan would be an agenda item for the August 2020 meeting. |
|  | **Meeting closed** | 14.25 pm |
|  | **Next meeting date** | Friday 14 August 2020 |