

Mr Andrew Read
The Allen Consulting Group
Level 4, 128 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
"The NIQTSL Project"

Dear Mr Read,

The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers is pleased to submit the attached response to the Issues Paper regarding the National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership. The response is the result of discussion between the Association's Executive Officer and Executive, and input to the response from members via the Association's Website.

In presenting this response it is important to note that, as a matter of principle, all of our members were invited to provide their comments. However, the short time-line for the response made this practically impossible for most of our members. December and January is, of course, the time when schools are closed and teachers take leave. Many do not access email during this time and are hence unable to contribute their ideas to issues such as the NIQTSL. To quote one of our members "I have tried looking at the response but it is hopeless trying to digest it at this stage of the year...Someone needs to have a reality check on this request if they are serious about genuine dialogue."

Given that one of the guiding principles for the NIQTSL is, quite rightly, "by the profession, for the profession", the issues of appropriate consultation with teachers needs to be seriously addressed. Without adequate time for teachers and their organizations, such as the AAMT, to provide a considered response, the NIQTSL will be regarded with great suspicion, and is likely be seen as something being imposed upon the profession.

The AAMT urges your consulting group to make this point very strongly in your discussions with the Minister, and to strive to extend the consultation period until March 2004. While this will necessarily delay the implementation of the NIQTSL, we believe that it is more important to lay the right foundations than to rush into an ill-considered process.

As one of the key national professional associations that has developed and is using national professional standards for excellence in teaching, the AAMT hopes that this response will make a significant contribution towards informing the preliminary findings and options paper for DEST. We look forward to on-going dialogue throughout the consultation and when the Institute is formed.

Yours sincerely



President
Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers



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