

ACDE Media Release: NIQTSL: A Chance and a Challenge

The ACDE welcomes the launch of the National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Learning (NIQTSL). ‘This is both an historic opportunity and a challenge’, ACDE President Professor Kalantzis claimed today. ‘The establishment of a national body to be run by and for the teaching profession is timely. The potential of the Institute to effect lasting educational reform is manifest. Realising this potential, however, will require vision, goodwill across sectors and stakeholders, and further resources. Much will depend on the directions set by the interim Board.’

The Council supports the four key functions of the Institute. In themselves, these are all admirable goals: developing standards; facilitating professional learning; initiating and communicating research; and promoting the profession. Beyond these individual goals, the Institute has the potential to re-conceptualise schooling, and its inter-relationship to tertiary education.

‘The fragility of Australian federalism has frustrated many previous attempts at educational reform’, Professor Kalantzis noted. ‘The current relationship between the schools and tertiary sectors reflects these frustrations. It is time for systemic change - to bring the sectors closer together; to enable educators to acquire professional experience in multiple sectors and environments; and to rethink the one teacher, one classroom model of school education. It is also time to acknowledge the importance of tertiary teaching, and its connection to teaching as a profession in general. The Council believes formal links with the National Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education are necessary.

The ACDE is pleased to accept interim Board membership of the NIQTSL. ‘The Institute could be an important step to improving the status of the teaching profession’, Professor Kalantzis noted. ‘Educators are at the heart of the knowledge economy. Collaboration, vision and investment in their future is in the national interest.’

The Deans are available for comment.

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