

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3 – EDUCATION
INQUIRY INTO THE EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PARENTAL
RIGHTS) BILL 2020

Hearing – 21 April 2021

Supplementary questions for Mr Paul Martin, CEO, NSW Education Standards Authority

1. In the new reformed NESA system of teacher professional development courses:
 - a. Will Mutliverse keep its accreditation given the deceitful way previously, it was accredited for 'Play With Clay' and used this to teach gender fluidity for preschool teachers in the instruction of 3 and 4 year olds?
 - b. Will the NSW Teachers Federation keep its accreditation given the deceitful way previously, it used its NESA accreditation to teach trade union training and gender fluidity (in defiance of NSW Government policy)?
 - c. Given that the NSW Government has banned Safe Schools, how can the NSW Teachers Federation be accredited for professional development when its website openly advocates for teachers to use a number of Safe Schools guides and 'resources'?
 - d. Will any provider receive Professional Development (PD) accreditation for the teaching of a) gender fluidity, b) gender as a social construct or c) sexual diversity?
 - e. What does NESA consider the age inappropriate level to be for the teaching of gender fluidity to students?
 - f. How will NESA ensure that unaccredited material is not taught in PD courses behind paywalls, locked Facebook pages etc?
 - g. Does NESA believe that parents have a right to know exactly what is being taught in PD course affecting their children via public transparency of such courses?

Response

a) Under the new requirements, to be accredited, PD courses need to relate to identified priority areas only, address the principles of effective professional learning, and meet the specific content criteria. Multiverse would be able to apply to NESA for accreditation of individual courses but they would need to meet these new, more rigorous requirements in order to receive accreditation.

b) and c) Accreditation of a range of professional development (PD) courses offered by the NSW Teachers Federation was cancelled on 3 September 2020 following reports that they appeared to be trade union training rather than appropriate teacher PD. Under the previous policy, the NSW Teachers Federation had broad endorsement to deliver PD, meaning that the content of each individual course was not assessed by NESAs.

Under the new requirements being implemented during 2021, to be accredited any PD course would need to relate only to one of the identified priority areas, address the principles of effective professional learning, and meet the specific content criteria.

d) Courses will not be accredited by NESAs unless they meet the new, more rigorous requirements, and are within the four priority areas of Curriculum, Mental Health, Disability, and Aboriginal Education.

e) Schools in NSW are required to comply with NSW syllabus content requirements. Gender fluidity is not, and has never been, part of the NSW syllabus. Schools, principals and teachers use their professional judgement and knowledge of their students, parents and communities to make appropriate decisions about the teaching and learning needs of their students.

f) and g) NESAs publishes the title and a brief description for each accredited course in its electronic database so that teachers can search for courses relevant to their professional needs. This list will also be published on the NESAs website from 2022 onwards. The amount of detail providers choose to make publicly available about their intellectual property is at their discretion.