



25 September 2024

Ms Julia Finn, MP  
Chair, Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training in New South Wales  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Finn,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Joint Select Committee's inquiry into arts and music education in NSW and for the opportunity to share what we're offering in our teacher education programs at Charles Sturt University.

As a provider of NESA-accredited initial teacher education we meet the subject matter requirements of each of our degrees, but admittedly the Creative Arts curriculum area is very full with its five arts disciplines – drama, dance, music, media arts and visual art, and each one of these areas could warrant more time and coverage, especially in primary education degrees because the required primary curriculum is very broad and full.

We have four degrees with Primary Education in them, and a fifth new one commencing in February 2025. I describe below the subjects in each of those degrees devoted to the creative arts to give a sense of what's taught in each.

The Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary), the Bachelor of Education (Kindergarten – Year 12) and the new Bachelor of Education (Primary) are four-year degrees, and all have two creative arts subjects:

**EMA117 - The Creative Arts: The Creative Process:** In this subject, students will explore the creative process and engage with workshops focussed on the creative arts: music, visual arts, drama, dance and media arts. Students will reflect on their own creative arts history and will use a theoretical framework to construct their personal creative narrative. They will further reflect on their individual and group processes and responses to each of the creative arts forms during their making and performing.

**EMA410 - Teaching and Assessing the Creative Arts:** In this subject students will develop and demonstrate understanding of the processes of planning, learning and assessing in the creative arts, whilst considering the intent of both the K-6 Creative Arts syllabus and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). They will explore various theoretical perspectives that inform creative arts education in the early childhood and primary contexts. This will lead to the development of appropriate learning experiences and assessment in creative arts, reflecting child-centred and engaging learning environments.

The Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) and the Master of Teaching (Primary), both two-year graduate entry degrees, have one subject:

**EMA410 - Teaching and Assessing the Creative Arts** as described above.

Students enrolled in the Master of Teaching (Primary) who have prior in-depth study and skills in Creative Arts can graduate with an AITSL Recognised Extended Primary Curriculum Area by completing the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) in the respective curriculum area.

In secondary teacher education we have two degrees which offer creative arts as a major, as well as a new degree starting in February 2025. In the Bachelor of Education (Kindergarten to Year 12) and the new Bachelor of Education (Secondary) prospective teachers can major in Drama and Visual Arts in the creative arts area.

In the Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary)/Master of Teaching (Secondary) graduate entry courses we accept students with Visual Arts, Drama, Music undergraduate degrees. We offer Visual Arts and Drama curriculum methods subjects. If a student is undertaking a Music major they do 14 of their 16 subjects with CSU and study the two curriculum methods subjects for Music with University of New England via cross-institutional study.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or require further elaboration or explanation on any of the above.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor John McDonald**  
Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Education  
Charles Sturt University

