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NAAE Media Release

Arts Educators Call for NSW Education Minister's intervention in 'flawed' Arts Curriculum Review Process

The National Advocates for Arts Education (NAAE) is calling for the NSW Education Minister, Rob Stokes, to intervene in what its members describe as the deeply problematic and flawed consultation process being enacted by the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA).

"NESA is not being 'open, transparent, rigorous or democratic' in the development of its *Draft Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus* to which it is currently seeking responses from arts educators" declares the NAAE.

NAAE is a long-standing coalition of national peak arts and arts education associations which represent thousands of arts educators across Australia. It is objecting to NESA ignoring the findings from its own consultation on the *Draft Directions of the Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus* late last year and asserts that the NESA is misrepresenting the outcomes in its new draft syllabus.

Chair of NAAE, Julie Dyson, said today, "NESA's proposals are an unacceptable deviation from the 2013 and 2015 agreements by all federal, state and territory arts ministers to the national *Australian Curriculum: The Arts F-10*."

Dyson continued, "We were delighted by the NSW Education Minister's recent public declaration that having a quality Arts curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12 is a fundamental step in achieving his vision for NSW students. We are very concerned that the current NSW draft arts curriculum will not achieve this goal, and believe that the Minister's intervention is urgently required."

NAAE has asked for a meeting with the Minister to offer solutions to the following concerns:

- the lack of transparency in the consultation process organised by NESA;
- decision making by NESA in relation to the direction of the syllabus while the 'consultation' phase on the Draft Directions document is still occurring;
- decisions being arrived at by NESA which appear to contradict the findings of its sector consultations;
- deviation by NESA's proposals from the agreed Australian curriculum. This includes:

- the lack of inclusion of media arts in the curriculum (unlike all other states and territories);
- the unequal treatment of all five arts subjects (dance, drama, media arts, music and visual arts) within the curriculum;
- adoption of problematic definitional terminology different from all other states and territories.

Roger Dunscombe, a member of the Management Board of the Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM), in addressing the omission of a separate stream for media arts, said: “For NSW children not to learn the history, language and creative practical application of media is to seriously disadvantage them for the 21st Century.”

NAAE is now waiting for a response from Minister Stokes to its letter and meeting request.

For comment contact NAAE Chair, Julie Dyson 041 2211 513 or Roger Dunscombe, ATOM representative, NAAE 0439 832 439