



13 May 2009

## **New President for the Board of Studies**

Minister for Education and Training, Ms Verity Firth today announced the appointment of Tom Alegounarias as the new President of the New South Wales Board of Studies.

Tom Alegounarias, currently Chief Executive for the Institute of Teachers, has been appointed President for a period of five years.

Ms Firth said Mr Alegounarias was a unanimous choice of the selection panel.

“Mr Alegounarias is ideal for this position. He is acknowledged across the country for his key role in policy development in relation to teacher quality.

“He has been instrumental in the establishment of the Institute of Teachers and currently represents New South Wales on the National Curriculum Board.

“Under Mr Alegounarias’ leadership, New South Wales became the first state to introduce a career long framework of teacher standards and the first state to begin accrediting outstanding teachers in 2008. The Institute has also introduced mandatory content knowledge in teacher training courses.

NSW President of the Secondary Principals’ Council, Jim McAlpine congratulated Mr Alegounarias on his appointment.

“The Secondary Principals’ Council looks forward to a positive working relationship with Mr Alegounarias and government school principals,” said Mr McAlpine.

Dr Brian Croke, Executive Director of the Catholic Education Commission says the appointment of Tom Alegounarias is a positive one.

“Mr Alegounarias’ appointment will strengthen the Board’s capacity to manage the transition from the New South Wales to national curriculum and assessment over the next few years,” said Dr Croke.

Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools, Dr Geoff Newcombe says Tom Alegounarias through his role at the Institute of Teachers has shown a strong commitment to quality teaching and learning.

“This appointment will ensure the NSW curriculum position is strongly represented in the development of the national curriculum.

“The Independent Schools sector has developed a co-operative working relationship with Mr Alegounarias and looks forward to this continuing in the future,” said Mr Newcombe.

The President of the Board of Studies will play a leadership role in the state's engagement with the development of our first national curriculum whilst ensuring it retains the rigour of the New South Wales syllabus.

The Board of Studies NSW was established in 1990 to serve government and non-government schools in the development of school education for Years K-12.

It provides educational leadership by developing quality curriculum and awarding secondary school credentials, the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate.

The Board is also responsible for registering and accrediting non-government schools, certifying that they may teach students and enter students for the examinations.

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