

## NESA Must Start Representing Parents

We would like to congratulate Professor Peter Shergold AC on his appointment by the NSW Education Minister as Chair of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). We also congratulate Mr Paul Martin on his appointment as NESA's CEO. He has demonstrated an admirable commitment to quality education throughout his career, and we look forward to a close working relationship.

We would also like to take this opportunity to again call on the NSW Education Minister to open up NESA's Board to parent representatives. NESA's Board consists entirely of educators, bureaucrats, unionists and corporate representatives. There has been and continues to be no voice for parents on NESA's Board.

This is a glaring gap which could be easily amended. The Minister talks frequently of partnering with parents, and this is an obvious area to put that rhetoric into practice. Overseeing curriculum, assessment, teacher quality and the registration of schools are amongst the most important activities in education, and it is not acceptable, reasonable or sound practice to remove the largest stakeholder from helping to shape our children's education.

Unlike representatives from universities, education systems or industrial unions, parent representatives would have no agenda other than to ensure the education system serves their children and that community expectations are heard. NESA is funded from the public purse, so denying parents a place on the board creates a fundamental and unacceptable imbalance.

We therefore call on the NSW Education Minister to allow parent representatives onto NESA's Board. We hope to find support for this from Professor Shergold and Mr Martin.

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**Media Contact:**

Patrick Doumani 1300 885 982

[comsupport@pandc.org.au](mailto:comsupport@pandc.org.au)

**FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Locked Bag 5114, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Telephone: 1300 885 982

Website: [www.pandc.org.au](http://www.pandc.org.au)

Fax: 1800 655 866

ABN: 37 439 975 796