

From: Mich Tomson
Sent: Saturday, 16 April 2005
Subject: Response to Inquiry into Teacher Education

Dear Janet,

ACHPER Qld Branch (Australian Council for Health, Physical education and Recreation) received information on the Inquiry into Teacher Education via the Joint Council of Queensland Teacher Associations, and would like to make only a few comments on the terms of reference.

With respect to point 5, "Examine the educational philosophy underpinning the teacher training courses . . . ", it is suggested that not only should courses be informed by research by also by experiential knowledge gained from contextual practice.

With respect to point 7, we suggest that, in light of:

- the identification of sedentary behaviour as one of the two primary causes of ill health worldwide (World Health Organisation);
- the doubling of the prevalence of overweight/obesity in Australian children over the last 10 years; and
- the existence of Health and Physical Education as a national and state Key Learning Area, the preparation of primary and secondary teaching graduates to teach health and physical education and to incorporate physical activity into the curriculum should also be examined. Our research shows that, in Queensland, 66% of classroom teachers teach no health, physical education or personal development beyond the 30 minutes weekly that is taught by the HPE Specialist.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Terms of Reference. As we are a national professional organisation, our state branches would be well-placed to assist in this inquiry, and ACHPER Queensland would be interested in participating from the perspective of HPE if an opportunity arises.

Sincerely,

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