

25 February 2016

### **Education Council looks forward to a year of collaboration**

The Chair of the COAG Education Council and Northern Territory Education Minister, Peter Chandler MLA, ushered in a year of national collaboration in education and early childhood policy.

Minister Chandler held meetings today in Canberra with the Commonwealth Education Minister, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, and representatives of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), Education Services Australia (ESA) and the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).

Minister Chandler said, "I'm pleased to have the opportunity to Chair the Education Council in 2016. We're looking forward to a very busy and productive year progressing important education reforms and policy initiatives."

"We have an extensive agenda ahead of us, including testing of our new NAPLAN online technologies, implementation of the *National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) School Education Strategy*, initiatives to lift teacher quality, national collaborative actions to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and a range of initiatives to further boost respectful relationship education in schools to assist COAG's important reforms in preventing violence against women and children."

"My Ministerial colleagues, Senator Birmingham and the agencies that assist us in delivering these priorities will be actively focussed on improving outcomes for children and ensuring that we give every opportunity to our children as they learn and develop."

"I'm looking forward to meeting with my colleagues at the Education Council meeting on 11 March and welcoming them to Darwin later in the year."

Further information on the Council can be found at [www.educationcouncil.edu.au](http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au).

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