



NSW AECG Inc. MEDIA RELEASE – March 2021

NSW AECG FAREWELLS LONGSTANDING PRESIDENT, CINDY BERWICK, AND WELCOMES INCOMING PRESIDENT, CATHERINE TRINDALL

The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group held its Annual General Meeting and General Meeting in March at the Sofitel Hotel on Gadigal Country (Darling Harbour). All Office Bearer positions were up for election in 2021, including the President role. After 13 years at the helm, Cindy Berwick, decided not to nominate for another three-year term as President.

On Thursday afternoon Returning Officer John Lester called President nominations forward for election. Delegates from the NSW AECG Inc's 20 Regions were present and voted. Votes were counted and confirmed by Scrutineers Lois Birk and Connie Ah See. Shortly afterwards Catherine Trindall was announced as the incoming NSW AECG Inc. President.



Catherine Trindall

On being elected as the NSW AECG Inc. President Catherine said: *"My hope for this organisation is that we will move forward, innovating, educating, advocating as we have always done for the last 44 years, and we will do so with a deep respect for our communities, our culture and our ways of being as Aboriginal peoples."*

Catherine is a Gomeroi woman with more than 30 years of experience working in Aboriginal education in NSW. She has been awarded the highest of recognition by the NSW AECG when she was formally inducted as an NSW AECG Life Member in 2018. She began her work in education in 1985 as an Aboriginal Teaching Assistant in Tamworth before becoming a primary trained teacher.

Catherine has extensively taught both in the city, rural and remote areas of NSW, where she has held many roles and positions across the Department of Education. More recently Catherine has undertaken a considerable body of work in leading and coordinating NSW TAFE's work around the teaching and learning of Aboriginal Languages.

At the AGM dinner on Friday evening Cindy Berwick was formally farewelled and acknowledged for her outstanding work as President. She reflected on her role and time as NSW AECG President, stating, *"It's been an honour and a privilege to lead such a great organisation."*

During Cindy's Presidency the NSW AECG grew significantly amongst shifting and often difficult New South Wales and Australian education policy contexts. The organisation developed and now delivers a suite of highly regarded professional learning programs and continues to develop and deliver a raft of educational services, advocacy and major projects to improve education across NSW.



Cindy Berwick

Under Cindy's leadership numbers of Local AECGs have increased and several new NSW AECG Inc. offices were established in regional locations across the state.

The NSW AECG sincerely thanks and commends Cindy for her tireless work and successes in the role over the past 12 years. The NSW AECG warmly welcomes incoming President Catherine Trindall.

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