New South Wales has a proud and impressive history of providing adult learning which is broadly based, needs driven and learner-centred. The NSW Adult and Community Education sector and TAFE NSW are working together to increase access to and participation in lifelong learning. The foundation for this partnership was established with the implementation of the first ACE - TAFE Joint Strategic Plan in 1993.

There are now a range of cooperative activities across New South Wales that capitalise on the complementary strengths of the NSW ACE Sector and TAFE NSW. In particular a wide range of credit transfer arrangements between ACE and TAFE NSW courses provide adult learners with integrated educational pathways.

The ACE-TAFE NSW Strategic Plan 2003-2005 is the fourth joint strategic plan between the ACE sector and TAFE NSW. The Plan is designed to enhance students’ opportunities for developing skills and knowledge for lifelong learning to enable them to enrich their lives and participate fully in society and the workforce. Titled “A better deal for students” the Plan will provide a clear framework to further ACE-TAFE NSW cooperation within the New South Wales.

I am pleased to endorse the ACE-TAFE NSW Strategic Plan 2003-2005.

John Watkins MP
Minister for Education and Training
The NSW Adult and Community Education (ACE) sector and TAFE NSW are committed to working together through local partnerships and state wide projects to give students the best possible opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge for lifelong learning that will enable them to enrich their lives and participate fully in society and the workforce.

### OBJECTIVE

The NSW Adult and Community Education (ACE) sector and TAFE NSW are committed to working together through local partnerships and state wide projects to give students the best possible opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge for lifelong learning that will enable them to enrich their lives and participate fully in society and the workforce.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES THAT DRIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NSW ACE SECTOR AND TAFE NSW

- Learners will benefit from enhanced credit transfer arrangements and innovative teaching and learning.
- Local communities and industries will benefit through locally developed joint projects which result in better educated and more highly skilled people.
- The NSW ACE Sector, TAFE NSW and their staff will benefit by sharing expertise and making more effective use of resources.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

#### ENCOURAGING INITIAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT

- by improving communication and utilising each sector’s strengths for mutual benefit

#### DEVELOPING STAFF CAPABILITIES

- by implementing a range of professional development activities
- Joint professional development activities will be designed and implemented.
- Joint seminars and forums will be held on emerging educational issues.

#### DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS THAT FOSTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- by sharing expertise and utilising each sector’s strengths for the mutual benefit of the ACE Sector, TAFE NSW and the community

- Local and regional projects will be developed through annual ACE Cluster and TAFE Institute planning processes.

#### FACILITATING INFORMED EDUCATIONAL CHOICES BY STUDENTS

- by providing course information and enhanced educational pathways for students
- BACE will establish a website to document and promote information on ACE-TAFE NSW Credit Transfer Arrangements.
- ACE-TAFE NSW Credit Transfer Arrangements will be updated and promoted.
- Funding will be sought to undertake research on the effectiveness of the take-up of credit transfer entitlements.

#### PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

- by conducting research and disseminating advice and information
- Regular ACE-TAFE NSW Bulletins highlighting ongoing cooperation and areas of best practice will be published.
- Research will be undertaken to determine additional mechanisms to disseminate information on best practice.

### SPECIFIC INITIATIVE

- Local protocols will be developed to guide ACE-TAFE NSW cooperation.
- Cross representation on key committees will be established.
- Joint professional development activities will be designed and implemented.
- Joint seminars and forums will be held on emerging educational issues.
- Local and regional projects will be developed through annual ACE Cluster and TAFE Institute planning processes.
- BACE will establish a website to document and promote information on ACE-TAFE NSW Credit Transfer Arrangements.
- ACE-TAFE NSW Credit Transfer Arrangements will be updated and promoted.
- Funding will be sought to undertake research on the effectiveness of the take-up of credit transfer entitlements.

### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Protocols established at the local level.
- Number of key committees with cross representation.
- Achievements of key committees with cross representation.
- Number of joint professional development activities and participants.
- Number of joint seminars and forums and number of participants.
- Number of joint projects.
- Documented outcomes of projects that assist community development.

#### CAPITALISING ON THE STRENGTHS OF THE NSW ACE SECTOR AND TAFE NSW

Introduction by Chairs

The NSW ACE Sector and TAFE NSW play key complementary roles in the provision of education and training in New South Wales. While they each have different charters and organisational structures, both the NSW ACE Sector and TAFE NSW share a deep commitment to building learning and training culture within and across communities.

Community owned and managed ACE organisations offer an entry point into a diverse range of education and training. Many people enrol in an ACE course to develop a foundation for further study at TAFE or university. For others, ACE organisations provide nationally recognised training that helps them to enter the workforce or add to their existing work-related skills. People can learn new skills for work, develop new areas of interest, or expand their creativity at more than 300 venues within NSW.

TAFE NSW is the largest provider of vocational education and training in Australia. TAFE NSW offers a wide range of nationally recognised courses through 12 Institutes with around 130 campuses across the state. TAFE NSW offers over 1,200 major award courses that are recognised by industry.

The NSW ACE Sector, TAFE NSW and their staff will benefit by

- mutual understanding and respect
- the facilitation of informed educational choices by students
- the promotion of best practice and continuous improvement
- partnerships that foster community development and lifelong learning
- enhanced staff capabilities.

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Sandra Yates
Chair
Commission Board

Kaye Schofield
Chair
Board of Adult and Community Education

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ACE - TAFE NSW JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN
2003-2005