

The Hon Prue Car MP

Deputy Premier of New South Wales
Minister for Education and Early Learning
Minister for Western Sydney



Ref: MINC24-333

Ms Julia Finn MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts
Chair, Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training in New South Wales

Email: ArtsandMusic@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair *Julia*

I'm writing to you regarding the redevelopment of the Creative Arts 11–12 syllabuses currently available for public consultation as part of the NSW Curriculum Reform, and to clear up some misconceptions raised throughout this process.

As you are aware, the Minns Labor Government and the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) are committed to a high-quality school curriculum, including a Creative Arts 11–12 syllabus that provides students with strong discipline-based knowledge and skills. At present, NESA is publicly consulting on the draft syllabuses in Dance, Drama and Music 11–12 which are being developed in accordance with the established curriculum reform syllabus development process.

The draft Creative Arts 11–12 syllabuses describe what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do, a learning entitlement that every student, across every school, has the right to learn in their selected course. The syllabuses include clearly defined outcomes and content to support a range of learning opportunities for students, and the knowledge to generate creative works with confidence.

Public consultation is a vital pillar of curriculum reform that allows NESA to test new ideas that are based on research and evidence, and that put the interests of students at the core of the curriculum. Since the release of the draft Creative Arts 11–12 syllabuses and assessment and examination specifications, NESA has received correspondence from the Creative Arts community with concerns regarding some of the proposed changes.

Much of the concern from the Drama teaching community has focused on the examination of a group performance, and the proposal that it be included in the HSC as part of the teacher-marked school-based assessment rather than the external, NESA-marked exam.

In recognition of the overwhelming feedback from the community about the proposed change to the assessment of a group performance, NESA will retain a group performance as part of the external HSC exam. NESA will continue to consult on the other proposed changes to the Drama syllabus and assessment and examination specifications, and public consultation will continue for Dance, Drama and Music as part of the syllabus development process.

All stakeholders are welcome to provide feedback via NESA's public online survey which will remain open until 20 December 2024. The survey is available at nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/nesa/news/syllabus-consultations. At the end of the consultation period, NESA will consider the feedback about the Creative Arts syllabuses to inform the syllabus revision as part of its usual syllabus development process.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Dr Paul Cahill, Executive Director, Curriculum at NESA by telephone on _____ or email _____

Thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely

Prue Car MP

Deputy Premier of New South Wales
Minister for Education and Early Learning
Minister for Western Sydney

5 December 2024