

Information Sheet No.40

The Government Schools Education Council The Board of Senior Secondary Studies

The **Government School Education Council (GSEC)** represents the peak community consultative forum for Government schooling. The objectives of GSEC are:

- to advise the Minister on policies, priorities, future directions and any other aspect of the ACT Government school system;
- when asked by the Minister, to inquire into and give advice to the Minister on any aspect of the ACT Government school system;
- to exercise any other function given to the Council under Territory law; and
- to report annually to the Minister on a fiscal year basis.

The membership of this Council includes the Chief Executive, the chairperson and the deputy chairperson, five community representatives with the ability and experience to make a contribution to the development of ACT Government schools and seven people who represent the major education groups (including two representatives from P&C Council.)

The key functions of the **Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS)** are to:

- maintain the credibility and acceptance of courses through a regular accreditation program
- monitor and develop the validity of assessment in years 11 and 12
- improve the comparability of standards across the territory through procedures of moderation
- gain the widest possible recognition for the credentials awarded by the board
- service the information needs of the community and
- accredit and register nationally recognised vocational education in schools subject to national agreements.

The ACT Vocational Education and Training Authority was abolished in 2007. It was the ACT Government agency responsible for ensuring the provision of quality vocational education and training. It managed the distribution of funds, provided advice to the government on vocational education and training, and administered the structured entry level training system.

The membership of this committee included representatives of employees, employer organisations industry training, the Department of Education, the Canberra Institute of Technology and P&C Council. Council expressed concern about the potential loss of community access to influencing government policy in this area.

It has not been replaced, although the Accreditation and Registration Council still exists, the secretariat for which is housed in the Department of Education.

Questions about apprenticeships, traineeships, courses and providers are welcomed by the Training and Tertiary Education Directorate, located on Level 5 of the Department's offices at 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon (6205 7088). ★