



Ms Gemma Baldwin and
Ms Wendy Ramsay
Co-Presidents, VADEA

Our reference: D2019/96810

By email: gemma.baldwin@vaadea.com.au

By email: wendy.ramsay@vaadea.com.au

Dear Ms Baldwin and Ms Ramsay

I want to thank you for taking the time to email Mr John Montgomery, Inspector Creative Arts, regarding the *HSC Study Guide – Creative Arts* published on 17 June 2019 in the Sydney Morning Herald.

I read your email with interest and note your concerns about the placement of advertising, the opening general advice, Marking Centre Tips and the Student Voice sections of the guide.

As a consequence, I have sought advice from NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) staff involved in the development of the publication and have responded to your particular areas of concern below.

I would like to make clear that NESA supports the view that the art forms are unique and discrete and that the Creative Arts section of the guide presented material that was generic to the art forms. In the future we will endeavour to ensure that we do not genericise the art forms.

Opening general advice

This general advice was written to encompass all of the Creative Arts courses. The comments draw attention to something that is common to all Creative Arts syllabuses, that is, students will consider art works and artists within context. I note your constructive concerns that the comments did not draw out the different demands of extended responses across disciplines.

NESA has taken on board your concerns regarding the terminology contained in the infographic, and as a result, the infographic was removed from the online version of the Study Guide.

Placement of advertising

I note your comments as to the confusion that the placement of advertisements for the University of Notre Dame caused for your members.

As a commercial product, the Sydney Morning Herald makes decisions about advertising materials. NESA does not play a role in making decisions about the way that advertising appears in the pages of the newspaper.

Marking Centre Tips

The points in this section of the guide are a very brief summary of the information provided in the Visual Arts 2017 and 2018 HSC Marking Feedback. The dot points are intended to highlight some concepts examined in previous years, and some areas where students did or did not do well. You have noted in your email that the summary does not go to the nuanced demands of the examination.

The dot points are edited to make the wording suitable for the public and students. Attempting to synthesise the syllabus requirements into five dot points can be problematic and lead to an oversimplification, for example the editing of the word 'metalanguage' from the Marking Feedback to become 'visual language' in the Marking Centre Tips.

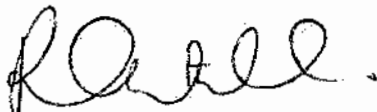
Student Voice

NESA appreciates the work of the Visual Arts teaching community in encouraging students to study Visual Arts in Stage 6 and produce exemplary artworks for the Body of Work. As you know, ARTEXPRESS is an exhibition second to none in the quality of artwork displayed.

The purpose of the student voice section was for students to hear about the experience of another student – in all its complexity, rather than from a teacher's perspective. NESA believes the Body of Work to be an extremely valuable learning experience for students. Teachers in classrooms around NSW would no doubt be exploring the conceptual meaning of students' work with them.

On behalf of NESA, I appreciate your constructive advice on this publication and thank you for taking the time to do so.

Yours sincerely



Rose Cantwell

Senior Inspector, Curriculum Standards

26/07/2019