

TO: Marino Institute of Education, Quality Office

FROM: Dr Andrea Uí Chianáin, PDE (FE) Course Leader & Dr Sean Delaney, Registrar

SUBJECT: Institutional Response to Quality Review Report for the Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education)

DATE: 26 August 2022

The Quality Review team worked extremely hard to understand and provide constructive feedback on the Marino Institute of Education's Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education) (PDEFE). The Institute appreciates the team's effort and welcomes the report.

What follows is an initial high-level response to the report. It does not deal with the individual recommendations which will be addressed in the quality implementation plan.

The PDE (FE) team welcomes the reviewers' commendations as outlined in the report. We were very pleased to see the positive feedback and regard in which the programme is held by students and broader stakeholders alike. As noted in the report:

1. "Former students hold the programme in high regard and their 'word of mouth' seemed to promote the course to potential students. Students had very positive comments about the quality of the learning experience, the programme, lecturers and guidance provided. In particular, students acknowledged the feedback on placement from the teaching staff".
2. "Principals from colleges commented that students were well prepared for taking up professional roles within Further Education (FE). Specifically, they commented on how impressed they were with the energy, ideas and skills of the students being placed in their colleges".

Marino Institute of Education is happy to see that our commitment to social justice and inclusion in education has been recognised in the following statement. "The PRG [Programme Review Group] found a strong commitment to quality teaching, a desire to transform teaching within FE and a commitment to advancing access, inclusion and social justice within the PDE (FE) programme". These values and principles align with Marino Institute's vision for education more broadly and clearly reflect the goals of the recently published [MIE Strategic Plan](#) namely "Goal 2: We will Cultivate a Rich Teaching and Learning Experience" and "Goal 5: We will Promote Access, Equity and Diversity in Education".

The reviewers made several helpful suggestions, all of which will be carefully considered. The Programme Committee can assure the Quality Review team that it is committed to addressing

all recommendations made, in line with the requirements of our accrediting University, the Teaching Council and the resources and funding available.

Although we recognise that all the recommendations put forward by the Review team have merit, we consider recommendation #9 problematic to implement at this time, namely:

“We recommend the programme board consider some revisions to the sequencing and content of modules with the programme so they more accurately reflect the phases a new teacher goes through on their journey to becoming and being a teacher”.

The new semesterised version of the programme will be officially enacted in September 2022, and this formal semesterisation will likely alleviate any issues that may have been observed during the Quality Review as related to sequencing of modules. We would like the newly semesterised programme to be enacted for a cycle of at least two academic years to observe strengths and areas for improvement. Then, we can revisit this recommendation to reassess alignment.

We can assure the Quality Review team that the PDE (FE) staff are committed to working through the Review Report, its recommendations and to developing an implementation plan in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Dr Andrea Uí Chianáin, Course Leader, Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education)

& Dr Sean Delaney, Registrar