Since reporting to you last several significant events have occurred at the national level in which the ACCE has been involved.

One major project which will have an impact on computers in education is the soon to be released National Statement on Technology Education. The Statement was commissioned by the Australian Education Council (AEC) following the Hobart Declaration on Schooling which identified eight curriculum areas for national collaboration and development. Technology is one of these areas, along with Mathematics, Science, English Language/Literacy, Study of Society and the Environment, Health/Physical Education/Personal Development, The Arts and Languages Other Than English. Mathematics was the first area of learning to be covered and has released a national statement which is to be implemented through the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers. Eventually all eight areas will be covered.

The first phase of the National Technology Education Project consisted of the mapping of existing practice in technology education in Australia and the development of a literature review. Phase 2 of the project (which is currently under way) has the following aims:

- to develop a national statement about technology education for Australian education systems;
- to describe common curriculum elements around which technology education can be organised;
- to describe the kinds of learning experiences that should be provided and outcomes achieved in technology education; and
- to promote further national collaboration on technology education.

The National Statement is in its final stages of draft and will go to the AEC in early November for approval. The Statement was developed by a Project Team with a Steering Committee and Reference Group with representatives from each state school system and the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET).

The Statement defines Technology as the purposeful application of knowledge, experience and resources to create processes and products that meet human needs. It identifies four major areas of technology education - processes, materials, information and systems. As such technology education can be found in many of the curriculum areas in schools. In recognising the cross-curricular nature of technology education DEET has formed a dissemination committee of the following professional associations - Design in Education Council of Australia, Home Economics Association of Australia, Council of Australian Media Education Organisations, Australian Council for Education Through Technology and the Australian Council for Computers in Education. I am the ACCE representative on the committee.

The task of the dissemination committee is to support and promote the National Statement and to develop a three year dissemination proposal for submission and approval by DEET. As part of the project every CEG member will receive a free copy of the Statement when it is due for release early next year.

This is an exciting and challenging project which is set to have a significant impact on technology education in schools. As yet I am unable to provide any information about how the document will be implemented except that it is likely to be over the three period from 1992 to 1994.

As more information becomes available I will keep you informed via this column and through your CEG publications.

Ian Webb
President