

New Faces, New Spaces

DCU Connecting with Communities in Professional Learning

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Background

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the codification of professional standards for many professions most especially (but not exclusively) for the teaching profession. Furthermore, there has been a proliferation of legislation and regulation impacting on how professionals act and think on a day-to-day basis.

Professionals, therefore, need to understand the complex interplay between professional practice and what the law expects in terms of standards and professional learning. Given that regulatory frameworks are part and parcel of professional life, they provided a dynamic catalyst for DCU to connect with diverse professions and our students around the interface between law, professional practice, and better outcomes for learners.

The Big Question: What can be shared/learned in collaborative spaces on topics of mutual interest?



Public Lecture 2: Child Protection and Professional Practice

Mr Paul Fiorentini (Post-Primary Principal), Dr Adam McAuley (DCU School of Law and Government), Ms Marie Conroy Johnson (DCU Institute of Education), Ms Nora-Pat Stewart (Barrister-at-Law), Mr Mike Corcoran (TUSLA), Ms Yvonne Keating (DES Inspectorate), Mr Paul Comiskey (Primary Principal), Dr Bernadette Ní Áingléis (DCU Institute of Education), Her Honour Judge Rosemary Horgan (Judge of the Circuit Court)

Innovation - New Faces

Hosted by the School of Policy and Practice, we devised a public lecture series to engage varied professions and students learning to become professionals. We supported this work with a dedicated online course in Child Protection for all our students on teacher education programmes.



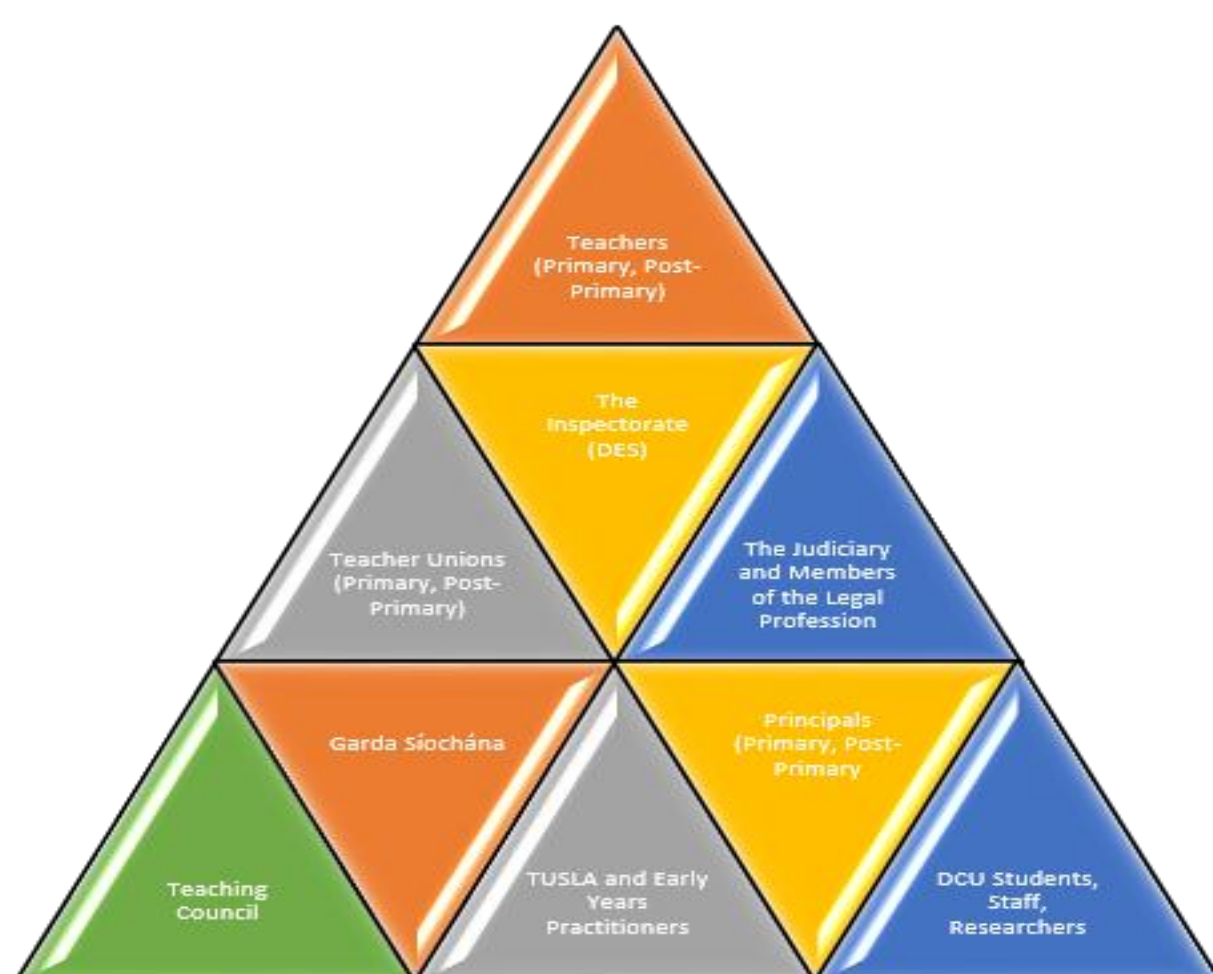
Public Lecture 1: Professional Practice and Regulation

Ms Áine Dillon (Primary Principal), Mr Billy Redmond (Post-Primary Principal), The Hon. Mr Justice Michael Peart (Judge of the Court of Appeal), Ms Yvonne Keating (Deputy Chief Inspector, DES), Ms Margaret Gorman (Partner and Head of Education, Eversheds Sutherland Solicitors), Mr Brendan O'Dea (Deputy Director, Teaching Council)

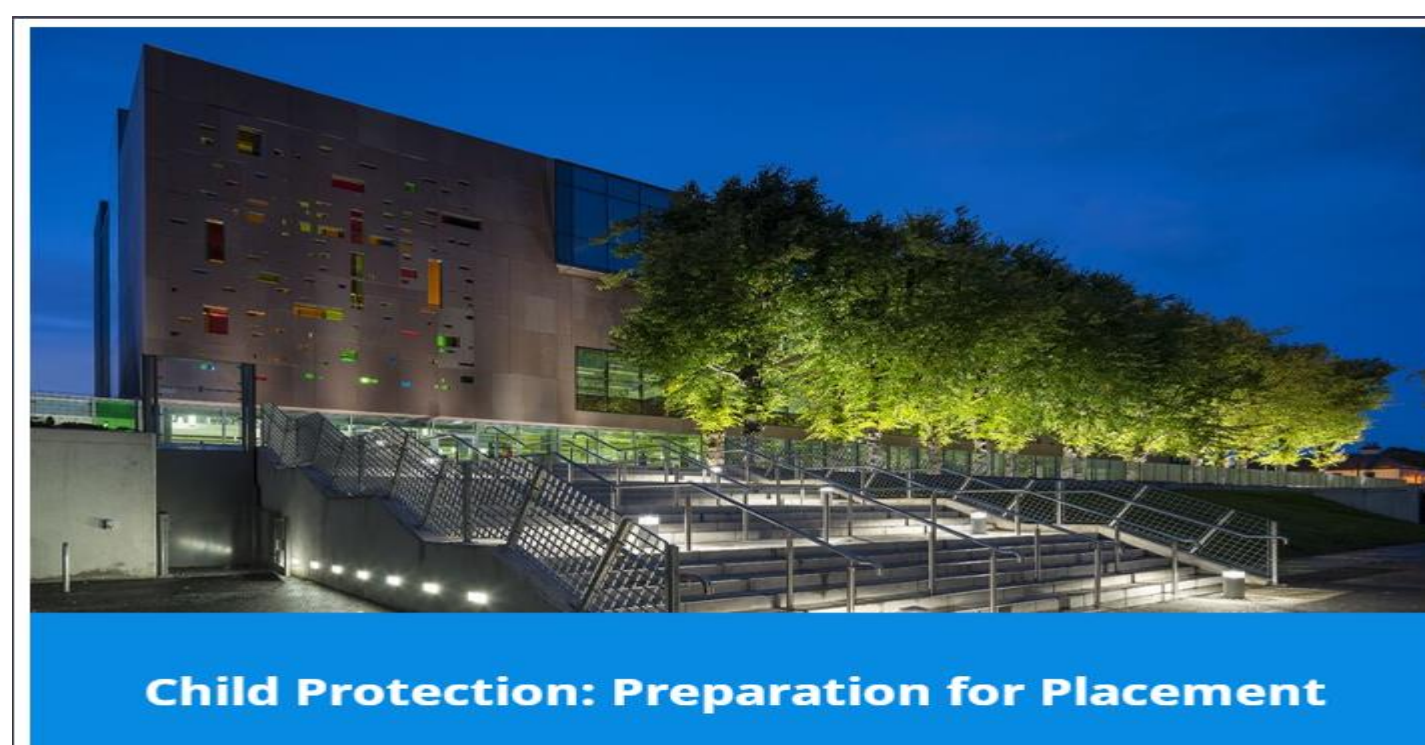
Outcomes and Impact

- Podcasts of lectures are publicly available on DCU website and also disseminated to all schools nationwide to build and sustain relationships with learning settings (sharing learning with important stakeholders post-event). They have also generated a lively interest in the next public lecture series.
- DCU online course on Child Protection is now an integral part of preparation of all student teachers across all programmes in DCU Institute of Education and other HEIs are seeking to replicate same.
- DCU relationships have deepened with key stakeholders in law, education, health, justice, and with professional regulation bodies.
- New, exciting inter-faculty collaborations have been created between the Institute of Education and Law and Government in enhancing learning and teaching for our students and society.
- A new public discourse space has been created by DCU Institute of Education in collaboration with the Faculty of Law and Government presenting DCU as a dynamic community-engaged university.
- The lecture series has provided the basis for new postgraduate research and doctoral studies exploring the interface between education, law, and professional practice and having impact in policy-making at national level and income-generation for DCU.

High Engagement, Wide Engagement



The importance of inter-professional learning through the sharing of expertise, professional experiences, and academic excellence in creating an inclusive democratic society is a noble pursuit (Ní Áingléis, 2019)



Online Course in Child Protection for Student Teachers

Informed by research, case law, and applications to professional practice

Concluding Assessment

Next Steps

Public Lecture Series
Lecture 3
September 2020
The edu-legal in accessing learning and teaching
Watch this space!

