Call to maximise use of professional judgement

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Federation has asserted to Corrective Services NSW that it should maximise use of the professional judgement and skills of appropriately trained and qualified teachers to assess inmates’ educational needs, to decide on units in the curriculum offering and to teach inmates who lack educational self-reliance.

The call follows an Annual Conference resolution to protect education in remand centres and is in the context of Corrective Services NSW conducting a review of education in remand centres.

Access to educational programs by all students with low levels of literacy and numeracy at the earliest stages of remand and provision of a broad curriculum are necessary for offender management and improving course completion rates in facilities for sentenced inmates.

Additionally, Federation has requested details of changes Corrective Services NSW proposes for use of education staff in centres within a correctional complex at Windsor, including the likely impact on staff.

The union insists staff and the union be given the opportunity to provide feedback to senior management after initial briefings and before steps towards implementation are taken, in line with current government directives on agency change management.

Federation relies on its Corrective Services Teachers Association members to inform their Organiser of local developments to ensure that Corrective Services NSW complies with government directives.