



**CECCHETTI**

29 May 2020

Dear Premier Berejiklian,

I am writing to you as the Chair of Cecchetti Ballet Australia as it has been brought to my attention that you spoke at a news conference in New South Wales on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, and, by implication, called in to question the qualifications of ballet teachers. The method of Cecchetti Ballet was introduced into Australia by Madame Lucie Saronova, a student of Enrico Cecchetti and the examining body was formed in 1934. Cecchetti Ballet is taught by fully qualified teachers throughout the world and is recognised as an excellent syllabus which carefully trains young dancers from the youngest level to the professional level with many Cecchetti trained dancers in ballet companies around the world.

I wish to question your statement that ballet teachers are not qualified as all our teachers progress through a rigorous training to finally attain their Associate qualification and then progress through Associate Diploma Part 1 and Part 2, Licentiate, Licentiate Diploma (two written exams, one on History of Dance and one on Anatomy) finally attaining their Fellowship, the top qualification within our organisation. In addition to the practical examinations they also study and are assessed in Anatomy, Childhood Development, Business Studies and Music.

All qualified teachers are, on an annual basis, required to fulfil professional development obligations attending workshops, conferences and relevant lectures from our own, and other well recognised organisations such as International Association of Dance Medicine and Science. This ensures they are up to date with all the latest knowledge and understanding necessary for the teaching of students from beginners aged from 4 years old up to the professional level where they may enter a career either as a professional dancer or as a qualified teacher.

We have teachers who also hold university degrees and we are a Nationally Registered Training Organisation focusing on the Certificate IV in Dance Teaching and Management which many of our teachers hold. I hope you now appreciate my concern at you publicly stating that ballet teachers are not qualified. Such a statement could be most detrimental for teachers with regards to the parents of their students.

I would appreciate you publicly acknowledging that you have misrepresented the qualifications of ballet teachers, not only in the organisation of which I am Chair but of other internationally recognised organisations with fully qualified teachers who are maintaining schools throughout Australia.

Yours Sincerely

Carole Hall O.A.M.

Chair of Cecchetti Ballet Australia <sup>Inc.</sup>  
Fellow of Cecchetti Ballet Australia  
Member of Cecchetti International – Classical Ballet  
Holder of the Enrico Cecchetti Diploma

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**CECCHETTI BALLET AUSTRALIA** <sup>INC.</sup>

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