

# Teacher Registration in Australia

## Each state and territory has established an authority or agency with responsibility for the registration (licensing) of teachers:

- In every state and territory, only registered teachers may be employed to teach in schools.
- AITSL has led work to develop a consistent framework for registration of teachers in all states and territories. The Education Ministers of all jurisdictions endorsed this framework in October 2011.
- The teacher regulatory authorities in all states and territories have undertaken to implement the elements of this framework in 2013.
- The common, agreed elements of the framework for nationally consistent registration of teachers consists of these common elements:
  - Initial period of registration
  - Fixed period of registration
  - Alternative authorisation to teach
  - Sanctions including withdrawal of registration
  - Suitability
  - Qualifications
  - English language proficiency
  - Mutual recognition

The following details of these elements are an abbreviated version of the full documentation, which is available at <http://www.aitsl.edu.au/registration/registration.html>.

## Elements Of Registration

Element	Registration Components
Initial period of registration	<p>There will be an initial period during which a new teacher has a form of 'licence' that allows them to be employed as a teacher and undertake workplace learning and development that will equip them to meet requirements for becoming fully registered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To achieve full registration, evidence of performance is required at the Proficient career stage of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.</li> <li>• The process for achieving full teacher registration needs to be flexible to accommodate different contexts and experience.</li> <li>• The recommendation for full registration is based on multiple sources of evidence against the Standards.</li> <li>• The evidence of a sample of teachers who achieve full registration will undergo a quality assurance process carried out by the teacher regulatory authority.</li> <li>• The maximum period for meeting the requirements for full registration is 5 years, with provision for extension on a case by case basis.</li> </ul>
Fixed period of registration	<p>After a fixed period of registration (not more than 5 years), teachers are required to demonstrate their ongoing proficiency and suitability to teach in order to renew their registration.</p> <p>The minimum requirements for granting the renewal or continuation of a teacher's registration, after a defined period of time, are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suitability has been maintained, assessed on the basis of a national criminal history records check that is no older than 5 years</li> <li>• recency of professional practice requirements have been met on the basis of 100 days of professional practice in the previous 5 years (or proportional equivalent if registered for a shorter period)</li> <li>• proficiency against the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers has been maintained</li> <li>• professional learning on the basis of at least 100 hours of professional development activities referenced to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, undertaken in the previous 5 years (or proportional equivalent if registered for a shorter period)</li> <li>• where the professional practice requirements for renewal of registration are not met there will be a form of registration where the minimum requirement to continue to hold and renew registration is a recent national criminal history records check and continuing to meet other suitability requirements.</li> </ul>

## Elements Of Registration

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Alternative authorisation to teach	<p>There will be provision, in clearly defined circumstances and under specified conditions, for persons who are not eligible for registration to be employed in roles that would otherwise require registration.</p> <p>There will be two categories of alternative authorisation to teach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to address workforce shortages, where a qualified and registered teacher is not available</li> <li>to provide pathways to registration for individuals who are working towards an accredited initial teacher education qualification, within a specified period of time.</li> </ul> <p>There is no obligation on states or territories to recognise people with alternative authorisation to teach from other jurisdictions until they have met all registration requirements.</p>
Sanctions including withdrawal of registration	<p>There will be provision for a recognised authority to impose sanctions or withdraw a teacher's registration if they fail to meet the required standards of personal and professional behaviour or professional performance.</p> <p>Where permitted, jurisdictions will share information with regard to discipline and de-registration of teachers. A jurisdiction may request from another jurisdiction where a teacher has been registered, information about unfinished investigations and any conditions that currently apply to the teacher's registration.</p>
Suitability	<p>There will be a requirement for an applicant to be suitable to both work with children and be a teacher, based on an assessment of character and criminal history.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A check on national criminal history will be undertaken upon application for registration as a teacher.</li> <li>All teachers are required to have an up to date national criminal history records check (completed within the past 5 years) to maintain registration.</li> <li>Overseas criminal history checks will be required when an applicant or teacher has resided as an adult in a country other than Australia.</li> </ul> <p>Regulatory authorities may take into account other relevant information in determining the suitability of an applicant for registration.</p>
Qualifications	<p>There will be a minimum qualification, including a professional qualification, for registration. The qualifications requirement for registration is completion of at least four years of higher education (fulltime or equivalent) study, including an initial teacher education program accredited in Australia, leading to the achievement of a recognised qualification; or an overseas qualification assessed as equivalent.</p>
English language proficiency	<p>Registration will require achievement of a level of professional proficiency in spoken and written English.</p> <p>Except where the full four years of required higher education study have been undertaken in English in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada or the Republic of Ireland. the English language requirements for registration as a teacher are an IELTS<sup>1</sup> (Academic) assessment with an average band score of 7.5 across all four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing – with is no score below 7 in any of the four skills areas and a score of no less than 8 in speaking and listening; or equivalent assessments using two other recognised instruments.</p>
Mutual recognition	<p>Under Mutual Recognition Legislation in Australia and in each jurisdiction, a person registered to practise as a teacher in one jurisdiction is entitled to apply for registration in another jurisdiction based on that registration.</p> <p>This legislation provides for regulatory authorities to withhold registration, for example in circumstances where it needs to obtain information to ascertain an applicant's continuing suitability to work with children or be a teacher.</p>

1. International English Language Testing System



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