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Promoting a National Professional Learning System – a call to action

In Melbourne today, the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) will release a draft *Australian Charter for the Professional Learning of Teachers and School Leaders* (the Charter), endorsed by all Ministers of education, for national consideration and conversation.

AITSL Chair, Mr Anthony Mackay, said that the development of the Charter is part of AITSL's commitment to promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership. The Charter focuses on improving teacher and school leader professional practice through ongoing professional learning, directly addressing and supporting the National Professional Standards for Teachers and Principals.

"Our intention is to generate national commitment to systematic, relevant, well-designed professional learning that enhances teacher and school leader practice and has a positive impact on student learning," he said.

"The development of the draft Charter which has occurred in consultation with education leaders is only the first step. AITSL is looking forward to refining the Charter and accomplishing a compact on professional learning through deeper conversations with teachers and school leaders, schools, sectors and systems in every state and territory and in every phase of schooling. AITSL is also planning to develop and release a suite of tools and materials to provide practical support for teachers and school leaders pursuing professional learning and development."

The draft charter will be released at AITSL's professional learning event: *Promoting a National Professional Learning System – a call to action*.

The by-invitation event will include thought-provoking presentations by two eminent thinkers and leaders in the field of professional learning for teachers and school leaders: Emeritus Professor Michael Fullan, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto and Special Advisor to the Premier and Minister of Education in Ontario, Canada and Professor John Hattie, Director Melbourne Education Research Institute, Melbourne Graduate School of Education.

This event is the first of AITSL's targeted activities to foster and promote conversations necessary to establish a high quality professional learning culture across school education Australia-wide.

Over 50 representatives from peak school education organisations and authorities from each state and territory, professional associations, unions, school education academics and experts will discuss a national approach to enhancing the culture of professional learning in Australian school education.

For a copy of the draft Charter and to find out more about AITSL's work and upcoming conversations, go to www.aitsl.edu.au/professionallearning

Media inquiries:
Dr Georgina Webb
General Manager – AITSL Brisbane
07 3010 0111