

Advancing a culture of progress

Australian teachers and school leaders are on the cusp of a new and shared understanding of what defines a professional educator.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) is working in collaboration with all peak educational bodies to establish a nationwide, high-performing and vibrant professional learning culture in school education.

Recent significant steps include:

- the implementation of national professional standards for teachers and principals
- the agreement to establish national accreditation of initial teacher education programs
- consideration of nationally consistent teacher registration and certification of highly accomplished and lead teachers.

These steps build on the solid foundations needed to fully support the nation's efforts to drive equity and excellence in the education of all young Australians.

AITSL recently engaged two experts* in the field to outline the central importance of ongoing effective professional learning to improve the capability, confidence and effectiveness of teachers and school leaders. Both experts affirmed that effective professional learning has a profound impact on the quality of students' educational experiences and the outcomes of school education.

* Professor John Hattie, Director, Melbourne Education Research Institute, Melbourne Graduate School of Education and Professor Michael Fullan, Professor Emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto and Special Advisor to the Premier and Minister of Education in Ontario, Canada.

Research evidence highlights the importance of leadership at all levels of the schooling context.

Good school leadership helps to:

- create an environment in which professional learning and achievement flourish
- nurture communities of learners focussed on improving students' attainment, well-being and participation
- model and promote effective professional learning
- ensure policies, procedures and practices value and contribute to systematic, well-designed and sustained professional learning.

AITSL currently promotes contemporary research through two professional learning flagship programs *Leading Curriculum Change* and *Leading Australia's Schools*, both of which have established national professional learning communities driving excellence in teaching and leadership.

AITSL will shortly commence a new phase of its national conversation about professional learning for teachers and school leaders. Work in this area will seek the participation and support of the profession. The adoption of a shared responsibility and commitment to professional learning are fundamental to this broad process. By taking steps to build a purposeful, active and pervasive learning culture in every school and workplace, the profession will further advance the educational goals we hold for all young Australians.

Find out more at

www.aitsl.edu.au/professionallearning



The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

provides national leadership for the Commonwealth, state and territory governments in promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership.

Teacher quality and effective school leadership have been identified as a major lever in improving educational outcomes.

AITSL plays a significant role in delivering national reforms in teacher quality and school leadership, with a particular focus on advice to government regarding the development and promulgation of national standards and professional learning.

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