

## Historic Step for Teacher Preparation

Chair of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), Mr Anthony Mackay, has welcomed the endorsement by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) of the new national approach to accreditation of initial teacher education programs.

"Teaching is a demanding, rigorous, exciting and rewarding profession, and initial teacher education is the foundation on which quality teaching is built", Mr Mackay said. "We have all seen the impact great teaching can make on the lives of young people.

"Learning to teach well is a career-long endeavour, but at its core is a strong theoretical and practical preparation. Learning to teach well is intellectually demanding, it takes time, and it needs Australia's most able and well-prepared people.

"Just over two months ago, MCEECDYA launched the National Professional Standards for Teachers that had been finalised by AITSL in consultation with thousands of teachers and organisations across Australia. I said then that the Standards provided, for the first time, national benchmarks that will be the basis for the accreditation of initial teacher education, as well as for the registration and certification of teachers.

"Now we have the historic endorsement by MCEECDYA of the national approach to accreditation of preparation programs for entry into teaching. We have developed these standards for programs, and accreditation procedures, in close consultation and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders across the country.

"AITSL has worked closely with a number of key stakeholders in leading the development of these new national arrangements. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the contributions of the teacher regulatory authorities in all states and territories, and of the Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE)."

Initial teacher education programs will be assessed by accreditation panels established in each state and territory, over a five-year cycle. Mr Mackay noted that AITSL will provide national coordination of the accreditation approach and is responsible for training, reporting and accountability in the accreditation approach.

More information can be found at [aitsl.edu.au](http://aitsl.edu.au) or by emailing [ite@aitsl.edu.au](mailto:ite@aitsl.edu.au)

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