

AITSL Board Meeting 21 July 2017

This meeting was attended by our Board Directors: Laureate Professor John Hattie (Chair), Mr Chris Wardlaw (Deputy Chair), Professor Tania Aspland, Dr Jennifer Buckingham, Ms Jenny Gale, Mr Rob Nairn, Dr Geoffrey Newcombe and Ms Melanie Saba

Update from the Chair

We considered a number of key initiatives in the July AITSL Board meeting.

Ease of access to tools and resources

The Directors were updated on the new **AITSL website**, which was launched in July. The site makes it even easier for Australian teachers and school leaders to access a rich body of credible, evidence-based resources that they can trust. The site is home to video case studies, self-assessment tools, feedback resources, the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, Australian Professional Standards for Principals, and more.

Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TEMAG)

The Board noted that work on the implementation of the TEMAG recommendations is progressing well. The initial teacher education (ITE) reforms recognise that our graduates need to be better equipped to enter the classroom as beginner teachers. While some graduate teachers report feeling well prepared for day one in the classroom, this is not a universal experience.

The reforms will help ensure that all graduate teachers, no matter where they are in Australia, are classroom-ready by the time they start teaching in our schools.

For the past few years, AITSL has been working closely with state and territory teacher regulatory authorities, teachers, school leaders, employers and initial teacher education providers to roll out these reforms. We will continue to do so until the job is done.

Recognising that the pace of the delivery of the reforms was rapidly progressing, the Directors recognised that it would be a good time to take stock, reflect on what is working well and review areas that need further consideration. The Board directed management to examine the status of the reforms and determine how best to bring together key ITE stakeholders to form consensus about what has been achieved to date and determine next steps for these important reforms. AITSL is therefore developing a TEMAG Forum that will bring together leading decision-makers in Education from across Australia for this purpose. The Forum will be scheduled for September.

Teaching Performance Assessment

One of the TEMAG recommendations was for a national teaching performance assessment (TPA), to ensure all graduates are classroom-ready. The Directors were updated on the status of the grants program to assist ITE providers to develop TPAs, which involves two consortia, one led by Learning Sciences Institute Australia, Australian Catholic University, and the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, the University of Melbourne. The Board noted the updated and discussed the broader development of TPAs for providers not involved in either Consortia. The Board requested that management continue discussions with the regulatory authorities about the progress being made by providers in developing TPAs.

National Consistency

Not surprisingly, most discussions at the Board level have a key foundation around achieving national consistency.

National consistency is supported through a focus on standard setting. The Directors were updated on a national workshop focused on the assessment of transition plans with regulatory authorities, trained panel members and ITE providers. The Directors noted the ongoing work on standard setting.

Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers (HALTs)

More than 370 HALTs are working in schools across Australia. These teachers achieve certification through a structured process that demonstrates quality evidence-based practice over time by applying the knowledge and skills articulated in the Teacher Standards. Building expertise through national teacher certification can help to improve quality teaching and student outcomes across Australia.

The Directors reviewed a proposed structure for a framework that can help measure the impact and effectiveness of the national teacher certification. The framework will enable insight and evidence of impact of certification and will support the value of undertaking it, as well as the benefits HALTs bring to the education system.

National Leadership Guidelines and pre-principal certification

The Minister has asked AITSL to develop guidelines to support best-practice advancement for aspiring school leaders (including principals). At the July meeting, Directors were asked to review the initial scoping proposal for this piece of work. The national guidelines will provide systems, sectors and schools with a better understanding of the attributes and competencies that make a great leader, as well as guidance on how to identify and develop these leaders.

Complementing the guidelines, AITSL has also been asked to propose a national, voluntary pre-principal certification, which would assist aspiring principals make sure they're ready for the role of principal. Directors endorsed the initial outline of the guidelines and scoping of the certification model, with a view to providing a paper to Education Council on this in December 2017.

Professional learning

AITSL is required to provide Education Council with options to improve the quality of professional learning of teachers by December 2017. Directors reviewed and provided feedback on the scoping work done to date.

Reporting

The Directors were informed that AITSL's 2017-2018 Work Plan had been submitted to the Department of Education and Training, and had been approved. The teams are now working to the new work plan.

The Board noted that the 2017-2018 Corporate Plan is in development and will be submitted to the Audit & Risk Committee in August.

The 2017-2018 Budget was reviewed and endorsed by the Financial Committee in June. The Directors resolved to accept the Financial Committee's recommendation.