Building Classroom Ready Teachers: Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)

What is the TPA?
The Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) is an assessment of reflective practice (planning, teaching, assessing) completed by preservice teachers using evidence collected in the final year professional experience.

What is familiar about the TPA?
The TPA is built on authentic classroom practices that teachers are familiar with across all school contexts. The TPA is designed using principles of good assessment: validity, reliability, fairness.

What does it mean for supervising teachers?
Supervising teachers will continue to assess graduate level performance using the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Preservice teachers will collect evidence of practice (including student learning) under the guidance and mentoring of supervising teachers.

Who is responsible for the TPA?
It is the responsibility of preservice teachers to collect evidence of practice for the TPA during their final year professional experience. The TPA is assessed by ITE providers and must be successfully completed for graduation.

What is required for the successful completion of the TPA?
Within the teaching and learning cycle, the TPA requires opportunities for:
- using baseline data, evidence and information about student needs to identify learning goals in planning for responsive teaching
- teaching a sequence of lessons in one learning area/subject
- collecting and using evidence of learning to monitor progress, make adjustments to teaching, and provide feedback to the students
- reflecting on impact of teaching to consider the "next step" to improve student learning

When is the TPA being introduced?
From 2019, preservice teachers in their final year will need to successfully complete the TPA for graduation in initial teacher education (ITE) courses.

What are the intended benefits of the TPA?
The TPA is being introduced to:
- enhance public confidence in the teaching profession
- increase professional confidence for beginning teachers
- improve consistency of judgements of graduate level performance
- build assessment capability teachers
- strengthen student learning

Why is the TPA being introduced?
The TPA is a national reform driven by 2015 Action Now: Classroom Ready Report that recommends a more rigorous assessment to better prepare graduates for classroom teaching. Looking to the future, the 2018 Sonkie Report calls for a continued focus on rigorous for classroom readiness.