

## Teacher Registration Review-2018

Hi AITSL team,

Hope this letter finds you all well.

I am writing this letter to show you my concern for the current teacher registration process.

I have recently completed my Masters of teaching both primary and secondary from Monash University. I also have Masters of Engineering and Bachelors of Electronics Engineering from India. My overseas qualifications had been assessed by Overseas Qualification Unit (OQU) and my Indian engineering qualifications are equivalent to Australian engineering qualifications. My medium of education throughout my studies (Prep to Masters) was English. According to National Review of Teacher Registration- Consultation Paper, English language proficiency assessment is not required for registration where the four years of required higher education study have been undertaken in English in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada and the Republic of Ireland (March, 2018, p. 4). If my postsecondary qualifications (Bachelors and Masters from India) are in English, I shouldn't be sitting in for English competency test. English throughout the world is same no matter from which country. On the basis of my previous qualifications, I got admission in Masters of teaching at Monash University.

I am an Australian citizen and it's been 9 years I have been in the country. I did my Masters of teaching to be a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teacher. I decided to pursue this career as I have passion towards teaching and I love my subjects. Australian statistics show that the country lack in STEM teachers. I want to start my career but because of English language competency test I am stuck.

I have completed my 2 years of local qualification (Master of Teaching) and it should be the proof that I am competent in English. Students like me should get some credit from English Competency test for two years of their commitment. If my English would have been poor, I would have not be able to graduate from Master of teaching. Does this means the system is questioning the University lecturers for their marking in the course?

All these English language tests are expensive tests. The full test (Speaking, listening, reading and writing) costs \$395, part test (2 skills) costs \$305 and only writing component costs \$245. You are only provided with your band, no feedback is provided for the improvement. If you want to get your feedback, you have to pay \$100. What if a person can't afford that money? What if a student can't perform because of pressure? Does that mean his/her two years of time and money is wasted?

There is no transparency how these tests are assessed. If a candidate can convey his/her ideas on a topic using appropriate sentence structure, grammar, vocabulary and punctuation, that should be enough. I guess this is not a fair system.

What if a person have done the qualification on HECS? Without VIT registration a person can't do a teaching job, which means he/she won't start earning to pay off the HECS loan.

### Suggestions:

- In Masters of teaching students have to do 60 hours of placement. Students' mentors can be contacted before giving VIT registration instead of English test.
- Mentor from every placement have to fill in a report for student teacher performance in the school. Mentor report can be submitted for VIT registration process.
- Test a candidate on teaching skills and classroom management.

It is my humble request to please review this. At least give person a chance to show the teaching skills.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks and kind regards.

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