

Thursday 20 September 2018

## Expert Panel supports quality teachers in the classroom

An extensive review of teacher registration has resulted in a number of recommendations that will support the professional growth and recognition of teachers, a reduction in red tape and give the community confidence that all teachers keep their children safe.

The findings will be welcome news to Australian teachers, including streamlining processes so that teachers can seamlessly transfer across the nation, bringing all early childhood teachers into teacher registration, and making stronger links between teacher registration and the different career stages of the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers* (Teacher Standards).

Education Ministers from all states, territories and the Commonwealth initiated the national review which started in February this year, noted the Report at their meeting last week and asked for an implementation roadmap for their consideration.

Launching the report, *One Teaching Profession: Teacher Registration in Australia*, Expert Panel chair, Chris Wardlaw PSM said: "The states and territories have regulators that are already doing a good job at supporting the professional growth of teachers through registration.

"These recommendations provide clear and practical steps to maintain or improve the high standards of the profession, strengthen child safety, and streamline teacher registration across Australia.

"Professional registration is the hallmark of a true profession and ensures that only people who meet standards of quality and suitability can be teachers.

"The Expert Panel consulted widely with the teaching profession, hearing from more than 6,500 teachers and school leaders as part of this review. They told us they are proud to teach in our schools and want to be considered part of one profession with colleagues who are also meeting standards of quality and suitability."

Expert Panel member Gabrielle Sinclair said making teacher registration universal for all early childhood teachers is a critical step towards the recognition of the importance of early childhood development and education in Australia.

"We know that well qualified and experienced early childhood teachers make a critical contribution to the quality of children's early development and preparation for lifelong learning," Ms Sinclair said.

"Recognising all early childhood teachers as part of the profession through registration is an important step in acknowledging their status in the education sector."

Several recommendations make stronger links between teacher registration and the Teacher Standards at different career stages.

Expert Panel member Marino D'Ortenzio said the panel found effective teacher registration is a shared endeavour between teachers, the profession and employers.

"To gain full registration teachers must show they meet the Proficient career stage of the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers*," Mr D'Ortenzio said. "High quality induction and mentoring is essential to support early career teachers' transition and to gain full registration."

Other recommendations relate to better aligning requirements for qualifications for vocational education and training (VET) trainers/assessors and VET teachers delivering VET to secondary students; supporting children's safety through better information sharing; and improving the processes for registered teachers to move between states and territories and sectors.

The next steps will be for AITSL to work with key stakeholders and education authorities to draft an implementation plan for all state, territory and Commonwealth Education Ministers to consider at Education Council in December 2018.

Go to [www.aitsl.edu.au/nrtr](http://www.aitsl.edu.au/nrtr) to view the full report and all 17 recommendations.

## **National Review of Teacher Registration Expert Panel members:**

- Mr Chris Wardlaw – PSM, Deputy Chair AITSL
- Ms Pitsa Binnion – Principal, McKinnon Secondary College Victoria
- Mr Marino D'Ortenzio – Assistant Principal at Epping Secondary College and Honorary Deputy Vice President (Secondary) AEU Victorian Branch
- Mr David Gee – Headmaster, Wesley College, Western Australia
- Dr Peter Lind – Registrar of the Teachers Registration Board of South Australia
- Mr Anthony McClaran – CEO, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
- Emeritus Professor Wendy Patton – Queensland University of Technology and Chair, Queensland College of Teachers
- Ms Gabrielle Sinclair – CEO, Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority
- Ms Christine Wilkinson – Teacher, St Joseph's Catholic College East Gosford NSW and President, Independent Education Union of Australia NSW/ACT Branch
- Mr Dennis Yarrington – President, Australian Primary Principals Association

-ENDS-

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**Notes for Editors** - *The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) provides national leadership for the Australian, State and Territory Governments in promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership. AITSL is funded by the Australian Government.*