



27/04/18

Secretariat
National Review of Teacher Registration
PO Box 299
Collins Street West, VICTORIA 8007

Dear Secretariat

Review of Teacher Registration - NSW Local Government Children's Services Managers' Network

We thank the Education Council and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership for the opportunity to make a submission to the National Review of Teacher Registration. This submission is on behalf of councils who are members of the NSW Local Government Children's Services Managers' Network.

About us:

Council-run children services across NSW have a network which primarily includes managers of long day care, pre-schools, family day care, occasional care and outside of school hours care. NSW councils operate over 300 of these services and, in NSW, 91% of state/local government run services achieve a meeting or exceeding standard against the National Quality Standards (NQS) compared to 77% average across all services. The network meets approximately 6 times per year in Sydney to discuss issues affecting the sector and communicates frequently over email.

Addressing the consultation paper:

Area for discussion - Should early childhood teachers be part of a national approach to teacher registration?

We commend the Council of Australian Governments for instigating this review and for specifically consulting on whether early childhood teachers should be part of a national approach to teacher registration. This approach is supported. It is a key step towards recognising the professionalism of the early childhood (EC) education sector. We support teacher accreditation for early childhood educators from *all* parts of the EC sector including preschool, long day care, family day care and occasional care.

Expanding the registration process to early childhood teachers will naturally require an additional level of administration for early childhood services and will likely create additional costs for services. Teacher accreditation is in-built into the school system and there is infrastructure in place to enable it to occur relatively seamlessly. This is not yet the case for EC providers and an injection of additional funding and investment into the early childhood sector is required by Government to ensure the successful implementation and maintenance of the teacher registration process.



Area for discussion - How is the national teacher registration framework working across Australia?

System

Currently in NSW, the teacher registration framework for schools and early childhood education services occurs through a portal called eTAMS and is managed by NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Unfortunately, the online portal is currently not functioning properly due to issues in rolling out a new version of eTAMS, meaning that currently organisations cannot access the portal and check all their teachers' information.

For teachers maintaining accreditation, whose maintenance report is due between 1 January and 6 July 2018, they have been given until 6 July to finalise accreditation in the NESA online account while eTAMS is out of action. For teachers whose maintenance was due in 2017, this process needed to be completed manually via email. Until the eTAMS system is operational, all maintenance deadlines should be extended.

Requirements

NESA requires large providers with more than 10 services to appoint an Accreditation Supervisor to support their teachers during the accreditation process. For other providers this function is performed by NESA. As NESA has the knowledge and support systems in place to perform this role, we believe they should do so for all teachers. Requiring some services and not others to appoint an Accreditation Supervisor creates an additional layer of administration and complexity, as well as transferring costs from NESA to providers.

Furthermore, some of the services of larger providers, such as vacation care and out of school hours care, do not require a registered teacher. We suggest that the definition of large providers be clarified so that the requirement to appoint an Accreditation Supervisor only applies when there are 10 or more services requiring a registered teacher.

Resources

Communication materials from NESA about the teacher registration process tend to be policy documents. There is a need for simple facts sheets and short video clips etc. to help more teachers to connect with the system.

We hope this information has been of assistance to your review.

Yours sincerely

Cathie Zammit
Group Manager Children's Services
Cumberland Council

cathie.zammit@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

On behalf of the Local Government Children's Services Network