

March 2018 – National Certified Teacher Month

**Leading learning to
make a difference**

**CHAMPION
TOOLKIT**

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Background

All students deserve the best teaching because evidence shows that [teachers have the greatest impact on student performance](#) among school-related factors. So it is vital that we recognise, promote and support quality teaching if we are to improve outcomes for all students.

In March 2016, the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) launched the Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher (HALT) Network. The Network is the first of its kind in Australia, bringing together all teachers nationally certified as Highly Accomplished or Lead against the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers*.

To mark the launch of the HALT Network, AITSL brought together certified teachers for the inaugural HALT Summit in 2016, which provided an opportunity to connect and share expert practice. Members also identified priority actions for the Network that would advance teaching quality across Australia with the overall aim of maximising their impact on students. A month dedicated to promoting great teaching was one of the ideas proposed during the Summit.

After a successful campaign in 2017, with many HALT teachers sharing their teaching impact, the 2018 National Certified Teacher Month will again focus on [making a difference](#).

Why a month to recognise certified teachers?

Campaign goals

- Promote the impact of great teachers
- Raise the status of teaching within the community
- Support school leaders to understand how national teacher certification can help contribute to a positive teaching and learning culture in their schools
- Encourage schools and communities to recognise their local nationally certified teachers
- Build awareness of national teacher certification as a way to increase expertise within the teaching profession

Key messages

- Certified teachers are making a difference
- Teachers have the greatest in-school impact on student performance
- National teacher certification is a way to build expertise and increase teacher quality across Australia
- School leaders play an important role in certification

Key dates for 2018

March 1–31

National Certified Teacher Month

All students deserve the best teaching.

Let's take a full month to recognise how certified teachers are making a difference in the classroom and with their colleagues.

Check out [page 6](#) for ideas on how to get involved.

March 2

#myteachimpact day

A dedicated day for all champions of national teacher certification to come together to promote the impact of great teaching.

By hosting local events, champions can share examples of expert teaching practice and how it makes a difference, encourage fellow teachers to pursue certification, and help get National Certified Teacher Month trending on social media.

Concentrating everyone's efforts on promoting certification for one day brings something special. It's about coming together nationally – and at one time – for a shared purpose.

Check out the “**Hosting an event checklist**” on [page 13](#) and don't forget to tweet your event using the hashtag [#myteachimpact](#)

March 16–17

Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher Summit, Canberra

Nationally certified teachers from across Australia will come together for two action-packed days of collaborating, sharing best practice and making new connections.

The annual HALT Summit is an exclusive, free event for nationally certified HALTs and will be held at the [QT Hotel Canberra](#) on **Friday 16 and Saturday 17 March 2018**.

HALT Summit 2018 is shaping up to be another unmissable event, with networking opportunities, renowned guest speakers and, for the first time, a gala dinner on the Friday night.

How can I get involved?

Be an online champion



Share a photo example of your impact on students, colleagues or the profession using [#myteachimpact](#).



Take a selfie. Complete the signs on [page 10](#) (also available to download [here](#)) and take a selfie to share on social media.

Encourage your colleagues to get involved and don't forget to use [#myteachimpact](#).



Help recognise teacher impact all month using [#myteachimpact](#). We've even prepared some social messages on [page 9](#) to get you started.



Be inspired by fellow certified teachers and school leader champions. AITSL will profile teachers and school leaders throughout March, so follow their journeys and share their successes.



Share your certification story on social media. How has being involved in national teacher certification made an impact on your practice, your colleagues and your students? Tweet or post using [#myteachimpact](#).



Follow AITSL on Facebook and Twitter and share the National Certified Teacher Month messages throughout March 2018.

How can I get involved?

For nationally certified teachers

- ➔ **Attend the Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher Summit** on 16 and 17 March in Canberra, and join other nationally certified teachers from across Australia to learn about and share expert practice.
- ➔ **Write an article about your certification journey and how it's impacted your practice, your colleagues and your students.** Share your article through your school newsletter or website, or submit it to the professional associations of which you're a member to publish in their journal. Check out the newsletter template on [page 13](#) to get started.
- ➔ **Host an event in your school or network.** How about a wine and cheese evening for colleagues to share examples of expert practice and stories of student success? You can share your story of becoming certified and invite an assessor along to talk about the process from their perspective. Or why not run a drop-in session after school for colleagues interested in national certification and form a group for those who decide to pursue it. Use the customisable poster on [page 12](#) to advertise your event.
- ➔ **Create a display** in the school staffroom with information to encourage others to pursue national teacher certification. If you'd like to receive a free champion toolkit, email your name and address to haltnetwork@aitsl.edu.au and we'll post one to you. Don't forget to share a photo of your efforts on Facebook and Twitter using [#myteachimpact](#).
- ➔ **Wear your pin with pride** throughout March so that other teachers in your school recognise you as a nationally certified teacher. If you haven't received your free pin, you can email haltnetwork@aitsl.edu.au to request one.

For national certification assessors

- ➔ **Encourage those in your networks** to consider national certification as a way to recognise and promote teacher expertise within their communities. Share the [Guide to the Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers in Australia](#) and direct colleagues to the local certifying authority to find out more.
- ➔ **Volunteer to speak about national certification** to teachers at a neighbouring school, drawing on your unique perspective of the rigour and value of the process.

How can I get involved?

For school leaders

- ➔ **Recognise** nationally certified teachers at your school (e.g. newsletter or assembly mentions) and seek opportunities for them to collaborate and share their expertise with others.
- ➔ **Set time aside** in the month for teachers in your school to share great practice and examples of teaching that have led to student success. Look for ways to promote and celebrate teacher impact in your school community.
- ➔ **Encourage teachers** to share examples of the impact of their teaching at your school using the signs on [page 10](#) (also available to download [here](#)). Share these on social media using [#myteachimpact](#).
- ➔ **Look for practical ways to support teachers** undertaking national certification in your school. The *Guide to the Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers in Australia* provides advice on the role of school leaders in the process.
- ➔ **Share on social media**, or through other networks, the role that you play in national teacher certification. Recognise the support that you provide and encourage other school leaders to get on board.
- ➔ **Consider training as a national teacher certification assessor.** The rigorous national assessor training program will develop your own skills in assessing quality teaching practice against the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers*. Contact your local certifying authority to express an interest in becoming an assessor.

Check out the ‘**Tools and templates**’ on [pages 9–13](#) for further inspiration on how to get behind National Certified Teacher Month 2018.

Tools and templates

Sample social media messages

Here you'll find some ideas for social media messages to help you get started.

These are simply our ideas, so go ahead and get creative in coming up with ones that work for you.



It's National Certified Teacher Month—let's celebrate the impact of great teachers [#myteachimpact](#)

It's nationally certified teacher month — here's an example of [#myteachimpact](#)

(add a photo example of your teaching impact)

Teachers have the greatest in-school impact on students – let's celebrate the difference they make [#myteachimpact](#)

It's nationally certified teacher month — let's celebrate the difference great teaching makes [#myteachimpact](#)

(add a photo of yourself holding the sign on [page 10](#))

Build your teaching expertise by becoming nationally certified [#myteachimpact](#)

(find out more at <https://www.aitsl.edu.au/teach/understand-certification-and-halt-status>)

We've all benefitted from the impact of a great teacher – let's recognise them [#myteachimpact](#)

(tag a great teacher)

Schools leaders have a vital role in the certification process [#myteachimpact](#)

(tag a great school leader)

Tools and templates

Selfie signs

The two signs below are also available for download [here](#).

**I know I have
made a difference
when...**

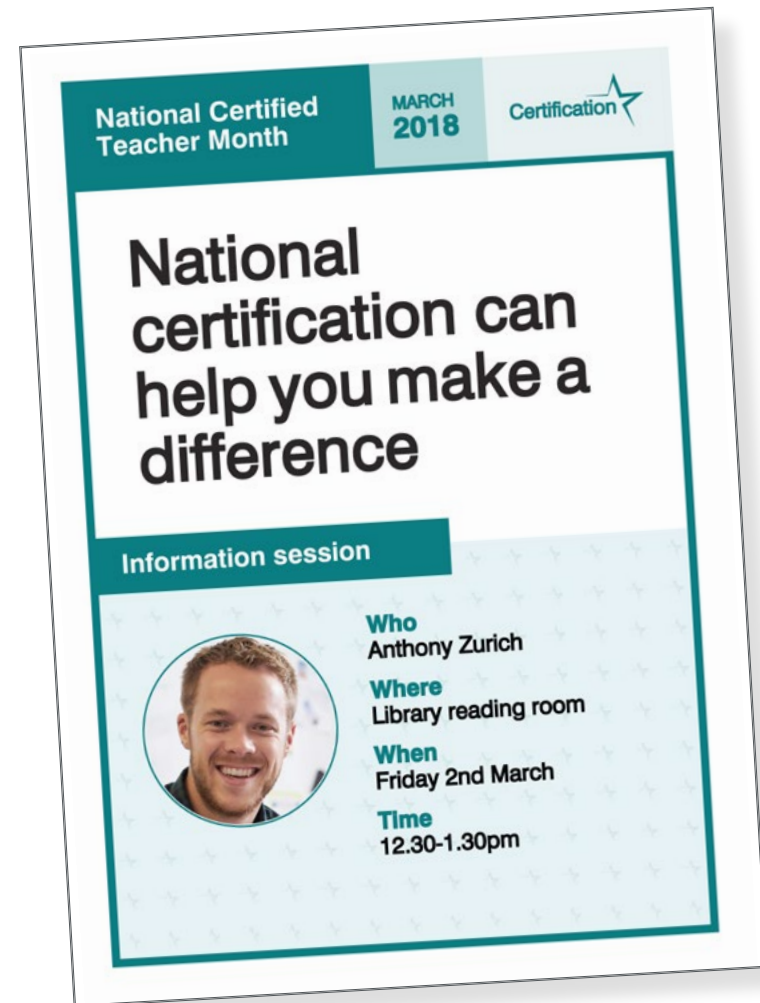
**I became
nationally certified
because...**

Tools and templates

Customisable poster

Create your own poster to display in your school [here](#).

1. Select a heading or create your own – we've added some suggestions to get you started!
2. Add your name so people in your school know who to contact about the event or national teacher certification.
3. Fill out your event details.
4. Upload an image that you'd like to profile in the poster.
5. Print poster via browser – we recommend A3 size.



Tools and templates

Newsletter template

Writing an article about your certification journey and how it's made an impact on your teaching practice is a powerful tool for promoting the benefits of certification to your colleagues and/or peers.

You could share your article through your school newsletter or website, or submit it to the professional associations of which you're a member to print in their publication.

The text to the right is a starting point only and we encourage you to edit and add your own reflections to make it more personal.

Download an editable version [here](#).

Dear (insert name)

March 2018 is dedicated to recognising the impact of great teaching through national certified teacher month.

Across Australia there are many teachers who operate at advanced levels. Within the teaching profession there are Highly Accomplished and Lead teachers who not only impact students, they also impact the practice of their colleagues.

National certification is awarded to teachers at the Highly Accomplished and Lead career stages of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. There are currently 378 nationally certified teachers across Australia.

Media reports regularly raise concerns about the current status of education in Australia, often citing solutions to be found in the education systems of Singapore and Finland.

However, as Laurate Professor John Hattie tells us, the answer to great teaching can be found right here in Australia. Fortunately we already have a nationally agreed process to identify expert teaching.

National teacher certification recognises quality practice through a rigorous process, which requires a teacher to demonstrate the impact

of their teaching practice on colleagues and students.

As a (nationally certified teacher/national certification assessor) I can vouch for the value of this process. (Insert your personal reflections on how you see the national certification process impacting your work and the profession at large).

An additional benefit of this process is the ongoing collaboration of expert teachers across the country, for example, through the Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher Network.

This Network brings these expert practitioners together to share their practice and experience. This connected group then has great capacity to spread expertise more locally with their colleagues. (Insert an example of how professionally you have been enriched through sharing with expert colleagues. If possible, include the impact on student outcomes).

Visit www.aitsl.edu.au/teach/understand-certification-and-halt-status to learn more about national teacher certification or follow along with the celebration using

#myteachimpact

Hosting an event checklist

We hope the checklist below will be useful in helping you plan your National Certified Teacher Month event.

To do

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborate with your principal to plan the event and encourage colleagues to attend. <input type="checkbox"/> Plan where you will hold your event, catering you might like to provide, and whether you need technology or not. <input type="checkbox"/> Customise your own poster here or order your National Certified Teacher Month Champion Toolkit by emailing haltnetwork@aitsl.edu.au. <input type="checkbox"/> Notify your local certifying authority of your planned event. You can find yours at www.aitsl.edu.au/teach/understand-certification-and-halt-status/find-your-certifying-authority <input type="checkbox"/> Connect with other local nationally certified teachers and | <p>assessors who might be able to support your event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promote your event through your school newsletter/website, within your local networks and via social media using #myteachimpact <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare copies of the Guide to the Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers in Australia and any other materials you wish to hand out. <input type="checkbox"/> Share outcomes and photos from your event on social media using #myteachimpact |
|--|--|

About the Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher Network

National Certified Teacher Month provides the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the impact of great teaching. Expert teachers have the capacity to enhance the practice of other teachers and improve the learning experience for many children.

Promoting the impact of great teaching, valuing expert practice and encouraging more teachers to become nationally certified can help professionalise teaching and increase teaching quality across Australia, leading to better outcomes for all students.

What is national teacher certification?

National certification is awarded at the Highly Accomplished or Lead career stages of the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers*, and provides a rigorous and reliable measure of high-quality teaching. The two-stage process requires an applicant to demonstrate the impact of their teaching through a portfolio of evidence, as well as observation of practice. It is a voluntary process that, through a focus on teacher expertise, can ultimately improve student outcomes.

What is the HALT Network?

The Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher (HALT) Network is the first of its kind in Australia, bringing together all teachers nationally certified as Highly Accomplished or Lead. The Network was launched by the Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, at the inaugural HALT Summit in March 2016.

This professional network enables nationally certified teachers to develop expertise with like-minded professionals from across Australia. The aim is for them to work together to share their collective expertise with the broader profession. In 2017 the Network created local Networks to share and recognise expertise as well as submitting a response to the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools.

For further information about the national teacher certification process and the HALT Network visit www.aitsl.edu.au/teach/understand-certification-and-halt-status.

About the Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher Network

National teacher certification can help improve student outcomes by:

- esteeming quality teaching and providing a pathway that supports teachers to be recognised as expert practitioners
- helping to retain our best teachers, especially when recognition is aligned to jurisdictional workforce initiatives or enterprise agreements
- providing a national indicator of quality teaching that can be used by school leaders to identify expert teachers, so as to leverage their expertise to improve practice within the school
- encouraging teachers to reflect on their practice and understand their impact on their students.

Useful online resources

- [Guide to the Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher in Australia](#)
- [Examples of national teacher certification evidence](#)
- [List of certifying authorities](#)
- [National teacher certification data infographic](#)



Need more information regarding **National Certified Teacher Month – March 2018**
Get in touch with us haltnetwork@aitsl.edu.au

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Australian Institute
for Teaching and
School Leadership
Limited