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Nationally consistent teacher registration: Another step forward for teacher quality

Mr Anthony Mackay, the chair of AITSL, has welcomed education Ministers' endorsement of a nationally consistent approach to teacher registration.

At a meeting in Melbourne on 14 October 2011, the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) endorsed a proposal regarding a nationally consistent approach to teacher registration.

The decision on teacher registration is an important feature of the national focus on further improving teacher quality. It means that across Australia provisionally registered teachers will provide evidence, against a set of seven standards, that they are proficient practitioners in order to become fully registered. "This is an important step in protecting and strengthening the quality of the profession and building the confidence of the community," Mr Mackay said.

A nationally consistent approach to registration will increase mobility for Australian teachers, and ensure that registration is part of a wider framework for teachers' career progression and professional learning guided by the *National Professional Standards for Teachers*. The agreed national approach builds on the positive features of existing registration regimes operating in many jurisdictions.

Nationally, consistent registration builds on the state and territory Ministers' endorsement of the *National Professional Standards for Teachers* and an agreed approach to accreditation of initial teacher education.

In welcoming the Ministers' support, Mr Mackay paid tribute to the hard work, goodwill and expert advice of all the stakeholders involved in both the registration proposal and AITSL's wider work. Mr Mackay commented, "This is the latest step in putting into place a comprehensive national approach to improving teacher quality, recognised as being the major in-school factor in improving student learning. The Australian community can be more certain than ever that everyone involved in the education system is working to ensure that Australian teaching, school leadership and student outcomes are the best they can be."

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