

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Consolidated data yields insights into initial teacher education in Australia

The new *Initial Teacher Education: Data Report* compiled by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) has brought together key information on initial teacher education (ITE) that was formerly only available from a diverse range of locations.

Among the key findings of the report:

1. Only 27% of all students commence teacher education programs based on an ATAR: of those, about 79% have an ATAR above 60 and 28% have an ATAR of 81 and above.
2. 74% of primary teacher education graduates and 72% of secondary teacher education bachelor graduates were working in schools within four months of completing their degrees.
3. Entrants to teacher education programs come from diverse backgrounds, with 21% coming from a lower socio-economic status background and 26% from regional areas.
4. Over 60% of recent graduates indicated they were satisfied with their ITE program. This is comparable to the aggregate level expressed across all higher education programs.
5. A survey of school principals about how well graduate teachers were prepared for teaching revealed mixed results:
  - a. 63% of primary and 66% of secondary school principals perceived graduates as well prepared to collaborate with colleagues.
  - b. 58% of primary and 60% of secondary school principals perceived graduates as well prepared to engage students in their learning.
  - c. 26% of primary and 31% of secondary principals perceived graduates as well prepared in understanding differences among students.
  - d. 30% of primary and 27% of secondary principals perceived graduates as well prepared for managing classroom activities.
6. ITE programs have stronger representation (2%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students when compared with the percentage across all fields of higher education (1%). However, the representation of Indigenous students in ITE does not yet match the proportion of Indigenous school students (4.9%).

AITSL Board Chair, Mr Anthony Mackay, said that the report provided a solid base for a more informed public debate. 'International rankings show that Australia has some of the best initial teacher education programs in the world. This data report provides much good news, but also highlights areas for further work. With so many people coming into initial teacher education without an ATAR or recent Year 12 results, we need to be clear about the best ways to select applicants who will go on to have successful teaching careers.'

'The figures on graduate employment don't bear out some of the more alarming claims made about a lack of jobs for graduate teachers. However, many of these graduates are working part time and would like to work full time, and we need to look at better matching workforce supply and demand. Finally, the areas where graduates feel less prepared are those that are best learnt in schools. It is critical that we do better in ensuring practical placements prepare teachers for the reality of teaching,' Mr Mackay also said.

This is the first of what will be an annual report of data about initial teacher education in Australia. Future reports will expand on the range of data provided and will move towards a focus on individual programs.

For the full report, go to [www.aitsl.edu.au/ite](http://www.aitsl.edu.au/ite)

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