

MEDIA RELEASE

27 April 2012



Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers: Principles and processes

Chair of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), Mr Anthony Mackay, welcomed the release by the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) of the *Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers: Principles and processes*.

"This is the first time in Australia that we have national principles and processes for recognising and supporting excellent practitioners. Teachers committed to improving their practice are vital to student success. As well, they contribute to the advancement of their schools through modelling and leading others to improve practice."

"*Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers* is an important element in a broader teacher quality strategy that develops, recognises and supports excellent practitioners."

Encouraging teachers to continually strive for excellence and further improve their professional practice will ultimately improve outcomes for students.

Certification at the higher career stages enhances the professionalism of teachers, enabling them to gain recognition for the quality of their teaching and to progress their careers while remaining in the classroom.

Extensive national consultation commenced in June 2011 and involved an audit and analysis of existing national and international practices, invited written submissions, focus group workshops, targeted meetings, and think tanks bringing together national and international experts in this area.

"The national approach to certification has been shaped and informed by the profession and the broader education community across Australia."

Ministers also noted the progress made by AITSL in developing an *Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework*. The Framework outlines the elements of a successful approach to teacher performance and development, and identifies essential elements that should be in place in all schools. These include each teacher having clear objectives for their performance, teachers receiving regular feedback, access to support to improve, and teacher evaluation being based on evidence that includes student outcomes and observation of teaching.

A draft of this Framework will now be the subject of extensive national consultation, with a focus on how it can make a real difference in Australia's schools.

'Teacher performance and development is about supporting all teachers to improve. It will ensure that teachers receive constructive feedback on their performance, and can identify the support they need to become the best they can be.' Mr Mackay said. 'I encourage everyone involved in education in Australia to join us in the important work of creating a culture of performance and development in our schools.'

More information about the *Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers: Principles and processes* and the *Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework: Consultation proposal* can be found at <http://www.newsroom.aitsl.edu.au/>

For further information contact:

Brad Allan, Communications Manager: Tel 03 9944 1233

Melbourne Corporate Office
PO Box 177
Carlton South VIC 3053

Brisbane Office
PO Box 5788
West End QLD 4101

Canberra Office
PO Box 4774
Kingston ACT 2604

E info@aitsl.edu.au
ABN 17 117 362 740