

# National Review of Teacher Registration

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the National Teacher Registration Framework?

The National Teacher Registration Framework includes eight key elements, which guide teacher registration in Australia. These include:

- Initial period of registration
- Fixed period of registration
- Alternative authorisation to teach
- Sanctions including withdrawal of registration
- Suitability
- Qualifications
- English language proficiency
- Mutual recognition

For more information visit the [National Review of Teacher Registration website here](#).

### Why a National Teacher Registration Framework (the Framework)?

The Framework provides a basis for a consistent approach to the registration of teachers in all states and territories. It benefits teachers by:

- improving the mobility of teachers throughout the nation
- requiring the same standards and consistent processes to achieve full registration
- ensuring that registration is part of a wider framework for teachers' career progression and professional learning guided by the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

### When was the National Teacher Registration Framework introduced?

The National Teacher Registration Framework was endorsed by Education Ministers in October 2011, and implemented by teacher regulatory authorities in all states and territories in 2013.

### Who needs to be registered?

In all Australian states and territories, only registered teachers may be employed to teach in schools.

### **Are there exceptions to this?**

For persons who are not eligible for registration, and to be employed in roles that would otherwise require registration, a person would apply to a regulator to receive alternative authorisation to teach. State and Territories may choose to offer a provision that clearly defines the circumstances and under specified conditions the registration status that person holds with the regulatory authority in order to teach at the school.

There are two categories of alternative authorisation to teach:

- to address workforce shortages - these individuals are not eligible for registration as a teacher, but are offered employment in a school due to a specific teacher shortage.
- pathways to registration - this provides a pathway to registration for individuals who are working towards an accredited initial teacher education qualification, within a specified period of time.

Alternative authorisation to teach is granted by a state or territory teacher regulatory authority.

### **Who has responsibility for registering teachers?**

Registration is granted and managed by teacher regulatory authorities in each state and territory. It provides a person with a 'statutory licence' to perform the duties of a school teacher as defined in the particular jurisdiction.

### **Is a teachers' suitability assessed for registration?**

There is a requirement for a person to be suitable to both work with children and be a teacher, based on assessment of character and criminal history.

### **Can a teacher be disciplined or de-registered?**

There is a provision for a recognised authority to impose sanctions or withdraw a teacher's registration if they fail to meet the required standards of personal and professional behaviour or professional performance.

### **What is the minimum qualification requirement for a teacher to be registered?**

The qualifications requirement for registration is completion of at least four years of higher education (fulltime or equivalent) study, including an initial teacher education program accredited in Australia, leading to the achievement of a recognised qualification; or an overseas qualification assessed as equivalent.

### **What is the English language proficient requirement for a teacher to be registered?**

A teacher must demonstrate a level of professional proficiency in spoken and written English. This can be demonstrated by:

The English language requirements for registration as a teacher are:

- an IELTS\* (Academic) assessment with an average band score of 7.5 across all four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing – with no score below 7 in any of the four skills areas and a score of no less than 8 in speaking and listening; or
- an ISLPR\*\* assessment with a score of level 4 in all four areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing, such assessments to be deemed valid only if provided by approved testing sites where the assessment is teacher focused; or

- a PEAT\*\*\* assessment of A in all four areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The date of the assessment must be no more than two years prior to the time of application for registration.

English language proficiency assessment is not required for registration as a teacher where the full four years of required higher education study (or qualifications assessed as comparable) have been undertaken in English in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada and the Republic of Ireland. (These countries under Australian migration policy do not require English language proficiency assessment).

\* International English Language Testing System

\*\* International Second Language Proficiency Ratings

\*\*\* Professional English Assessment for Teachers

### **Can a teacher apply for registration in another state and territory?**

A person registered to practise as a teacher in one jurisdiction is entitled to apply for registration in another jurisdiction.

To enable this, jurisdictions release information to other teacher regulatory authorities about registered teachers who apply for registration under Mutual Recognition Legislation Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act 1992 and the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997.

### **What proportion of the teacher workforce is granted mutual recognition in each year?**

There is variation in the proportion of mutual recognition registrations that are undertaken by regulatory authorities in a given year. Due to the transient nature of the teacher workforce in some jurisdictions, mutual recognition registrations may be as high as 50% and in other jurisdictions as low as 5%.

### **Which states and territories have registration arrangements for Childhood Teachers to teach in schools?**

Currently, there are teacher registration arrangements in place for Early Childhood teachers in all States and Territories except Queensland.

Arrangements and requirements do differ across the states and territories, however, based on factors such as jurisdictional legislation and schooling structures.

*The Frequently Asked Questions may be updated during the course of the National Review of Teacher registration.*