

News for teachers from the QCT

August 2013

QCT eNews is published by the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) for Queensland approved teachers. It is emailed every second month during the school year to all those on our register with an email address.

The QCT protects the public and the teaching profession by working to ensure that all teachers in Queensland schools meet professional standards of competence and conduct.

In this edition of QCT eNews you'll find the following articles:

- **QCT presentations and workshops**
- **Focus on a standard**
- **Learning frontiers**
- **Communication through technology**
- **Early childhood teachers**
- **QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards**
- **Facebook and former students - lessons to be learnt**
- **Fortieth anniversary of teacher registration in Queensland**
- **Free training on the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)**
- **Contribute to new research: Does climate change education have a place in Australian classrooms?**
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QCT presentations and workshops

The QCT will be conducting a series of web conferences to present information regarding the **Australian Professional Standards for Teachers**. The series will include a range of modules tailored to suit participant needs and will include key messages from the face-to-face workshops provided by the QCT during 2013.

The web conferences will commence in September and will be held before and after school continuing into Term 4, with a number of presentations available on the Student Free Day on October 21st.

Web Conference dates, times and registration details will be made available very soon. Education Queensland teachers will be able to register for these presentations via The Learning Place, whilst teachers in non-state schools will be provided with registration details via the QCT website closer to the date.

Module	Topic	Target Audience
One	Introducing the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers	All teachers
Two	Provisional Registration	Provisionally Registered Teachers
Three	The Standards and evidence of practice	Provisionally Registered Teachers
Four	Supporting Provisionally Registered teachers to transition to full registration	School Administrators / Mentors



Focus on a standard

During 2013 the QCT is introducing the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST). Like the Professional Standards for Queensland Teachers in use prior to 2013, the APST describe the professional knowledge, professional practice and professional engagement required of teachers. The Standards also underpin registration decisions at different career junctures. Copies of the APST can be downloaded from www.qct.edu.au/Standards/view.html

In each issue of *QCT eNews* during 2013 we are looking at a specific standard by providing general information as well as links to resources such as the *Illustrations of Practice* commissioned

by the Australian Institute of Teaching and School leadership (AITSL).

In the June edition of *QCT eNews* we considered **Standard 5: Assess, provide feedback and report on student learning** with a focus on assessment. This edition, we are examining engagement in professional learning.

Standard 6: Engage in professional learning highlights the need for teachers to reflect on their professional practice and develop learning goals for engagement in professional development. The standard affirms the importance of learning in the areas of professional knowledge, practice and engagement for all teachers and school leaders to achieve improvement in student outcomes. It also confirms the expectation that all teachers and school leaders actively engage in professional learning throughout their careers.

Within AITSL's Illustrations of Practice, two examples in particular focus on engagement in professional learning at the Proficient level. These examples may be accessed at:

www.teacherstandards.aitsl.edu.au/Illustrations/Details/IOP00128

In this example, the teacher acknowledges the importance of self-reflection and collaboration with colleagues which inform her decisions when choosing challenging professional learning goals for the year.

www.teacherstandards.aitsl.edu.au/Illustrations/Details/IOP00017

In this example, the teacher engages in a professional discussion with a colleague to reflect on the outcomes of his physical education lesson. Both teachers draw on their expertise in working with students of different ages to evaluate effective strategies for achieving successful learning outcomes.

AITSL has also developed a self-assessment tool that can assist teachers to identify for themselves their areas of strength and areas for development. It is available at the following link:

www.selfassessment.aitsl.edu.au



Learning Frontiers

A Professional Practices Symposium was convened in March 2013 by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) to stimulate conversation and develop advice on emerging professional practices that foster the engagement of all Australian young people in an education worth having.

A background paper and videos of presentations at the Symposium are available on the Learning Frontiers section of the AITSL website – see www.aitsl.edu.au/learning-frontiers.html.

Reading the paper and viewing the videos, and keeping a short reflective log of this activity, can contribute towards teachers' Continuing Professional Development for the purposes of registration renewal. You may wish to use the QCT's Reflection Template available on the website:

www.qct.edu.au/PDF/PSU/ReflectingOnProfessionalLearning.pdf



Communication through technology

As the QCT increases its use of information technology in communicating with you, please go to the QCT's [Online Services](#) to check that your mobile phone number is listed correctly and your other personal details, including your current mailing address, are up to date.



Early childhood teachers

With the growth in the early childhood sector nationwide the QCT is keen to monitor the level of movement of registered teachers from the school to the early childhood sector.

If you are teaching in a licensed early childhood setting, you are encouraged to go online by logging in at the QCT website's [Online Services](#) and updating your details accordingly.



QCT Teaching Awards

Nearly 200 teachers from around the State have been nominated for the 2013 QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Four awards are aimed at recognising exceptional teachers who inspire young people to lead successful and productive lives. Each category distinguishes a key stage in a teaching career and the awards give

State and non-State school communities an opportunity to show their gratitude to teachers for their contributions.

Nominations for the 2013 Awards have closed and finalists will be made known in early October. The winner in each category will be announced at a ceremony on World Teachers' Day (25 October 2013). Cash prizes for professional development will be awarded by sponsors QT Mutual Bank, Teachers' Union Health and *The Courier-Mail*.



Facebook and former students - lessons to be learnt

While only a very small proportion of teachers ever engage in inappropriate conduct towards students, the behaviour of those who do can be the subject of media attention which reflects badly on the whole profession.

The following case is provided to help teachers avoid placing themselves in situations which can lead to disciplinary action being taken against them.

A male teacher used a social networking site to engage in inappropriate, overly familiar and sexualised communications with two female students aged 14 and 15 years. The teacher had taught them the previous year and had then accepted a position at a different school some distance away.

The inappropriate communications the teacher engaged in via the Facebook private messaging function were discovered by an older sibling of one of the students, who provided the message exchanges to the Principal. As required, the QCT was notified and commenced an investigation where the teacher made full admissions. The matter proceeded to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The teacher was found not suitable to teach and his registration was cancelled. Further, he was prohibited from reapplying for registration for 12 months. With any reapplication for registration, the teacher must include a psychologist's report addressing the areas of concern, namely personal and professional behaviour and boundaries, ethical conduct and professionalism.

This case shows that inappropriate communications or relationships with former students (not only current students) can be the subject of disciplinary action and that using social media sites such as Facebook allows strong, unequivocal evidence to be obtained and used in disciplinary proceedings. In addition, the case serves as a reminder

that all teachers should be aware of their employing authority's policies on use of social media, and that all communications with students should be open and transparent.



Fortieth anniversary of teacher registration in Queensland

2013 marks forty years since teacher registration was introduced in Queensland.

The following points illustrate how times have changed since 1973:

- Teacher 'training' courses were then typically three years in duration and undertaken at teachers' colleges run by the Department of Education
- Attendance at lectures was compulsory and students were expected to arrive punctually
- Students intending to marry were required to advise the Director-General of Education at least one month in advance
- Students on teaching practice were advised to dress tidily and appropriately; in the case of men, collar and tie were expected
- The commencing salary of three-year trained teachers appointed to state primary and secondary schools was \$172.50 per fortnight

Readers of our eNews are invited to send in material (e.g. copies of any photographs or other memorabilia, or any personal recollections or stories) about teaching in Queensland in the early 1970s that would be appropriate to share with other registered teachers via the QCT. Selected items may be included in future issues of QCT eNews or other QCT publications. Please ensure all contributions are as fully labelled as possible (e.g. names, dates, locations) and that you have permission to share them in this way.

Contributions can be sent via enquiries@gct.edu.au, with '40 years of registration' in the subject line or by post to '40 years of registration', PO Box 389, Toowong Qld 4066.



Free training available on the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)

The Office for Early Childhood Education and Care has engaged Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE to deliver **free** training to provide

greater awareness of the AEDI and how it can be used by governments, schools, communities and the early childhood sector.

The AEDI is a national collection of information about how children are developing across five domains linked to predictors of good adult health, education and social outcomes.

Sessions will be held throughout Queensland between **July and October 2013**.

There are three session types available:

- **AEDI information sessions (3 hours)** providing an overview of the AEDI including key national, state and local data and sharing a range of ideas and case studies on how the AEDI can be used. This training is relevant for anyone with an interest in early childhood development including staff of early childhood education and care services, family support services, child health services, schools, local and regional government, training providers and Universities.
- **AEDI training (full day)** providing detailed information about the AEDI and ideas on how to work with other services to share and respond to the results. This training is aimed at people who may have a role in planning or supporting a range of programs and services designed for young children and their families.
- **School workshops (1 1/2 hours)** providing opportunities for Principals, school leaders and teachers to learn more about the AEDI and consider ways schools can use their data to support children entering school.

To download an information flyer which outlines dates, locations and how to register for a session, please visit:

<http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/about/news/aedi.html>



Contribute to new research: Does climate change education have a place in Australian classrooms?

Teachers' perspectives are important and climate change education is a complex issue. Researchers at James Cook University are investigating teachers' perspectives on climate change education. Responses are sought from **diverse perspectives**. Whether you feel strongly or indifferent about climate change education, your opinions are important.

The online survey can be found by clicking the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/climatechangeeducation

- All online survey responses are **anonymous**
- The online survey will take approximately **10 minutes** to complete
- You may provide responses via the phone, email or Skype

If you would like more information please contact principal researcher Jennifer Nicholls (jennifer.nicholls@my.jcu.edu.au) at James Cook University's School of Education.



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