

News for teachers from the QCT

February 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.

Welcome to our first issue for 2013. In this edition of QCT eNews you'll find information about:

- **Australian Professional Standards for Teachers**
- **40 years of teacher registration**
- **QCT Teacher Research Grants**
- **QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards**
- **Learnings from disciplinary cases**
- **Fortieth anniversary of teacher registration in Queensland**
- **Join the NAPLAN marking team**
- **Were you teaching in a natural disaster affected area in Queensland during 2011?**
- **Support for EQ teachers**
- **Music Teachers' Project**

Our thoughts and best wishes are with all teachers who have been adversely affected by the severe weather in Queensland and elsewhere in Australia earlier this year.



Australian Professional Standards for Teachers

From January this year, the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers will commence to be used by the Queensland College of Teachers for a range of teacher registration purposes. The Professional Standards describe the professional knowledge, professional practice and professional engagement required of teachers across four career stages. Information regarding the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, including printable single page overviews of the graduate and proficient career stages, is available on the QCT website at www.qct.edu.au/Standards/index.html.

In Term 2 and 3, the QCT will be holding workshops on reflective practice and the new Professional Standards in both metropolitan and regional Queensland. Further information regarding these workshops will be available in the next QCT eNews.



40 years of teacher registration

Teacher registration in Queensland began exactly forty years ago, on 1 February 1973. Below is an extract from the Annual Report for 1973 of the then Board of Teacher Education:

Teachers and their organisations have long been concerned with establishing and protecting the standard of entry into the teaching profession and with ensuring that, in the interests of children, only qualified teachers should be permitted to practise in schools.

The commencement on 1 February of the Register of Teachers, as required under the Education Act, was a major step towards achieving this goal of a fully qualified teaching service.

Registration began on a voluntary basis and remains so for the present. Nevertheless the extent of teacher support may be judged from the strong response to the Board's invitation to teachers to apply for registration. By the end of the year some 7,000 State and 4,000 non-State teachers had applied and some 8,000 names had been entered in the Register. This

represents nearly half of the total teaching force in primary and secondary schools.

Of course the Register has grown considerably since then and today holds the names of well over 98,000 teachers registered in Queensland. The total teaching force in the state's primary and secondary schools is now around 62,000.

However, as experience elsewhere has shown, the protections that teacher registration provides to both the public and the profession should not be taken for granted. Teachers and the community need to remain vigilant to ensure that appropriate standards of entry to the profession are maintained and that only qualified teachers who are suitable to work with children are permitted to practise in schools.



QCT Teacher Research Grants - applications now open

The QCT awards a small number of research grants annually to practising teachers to assist them to present their research at key Australian education conferences. Queensland-registered teachers who have undertaken research on teaching practice are invited to apply for a grant to enable them to present their findings in a suitable national or state forum. Receipt of a grant is contingent upon the acceptance of their proposed paper presentation by the conference organisers. The grant provides financial assistance towards conference registration fees and travel and accommodation associated with conference attendance.

Applications must be on [the form](#) provided by the QCT and must be submitted to the QCT by 30 April. Please see the [Guidelines for Applicants](#).



QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards

Nominations will open around Easter time for the fifth annual QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards. Registered teachers from State, Catholic and independent schools are eligible for nomination in four award categories. Nominating a teacher for an award is recognition of a colleague's hard work and a celebration of their achievements that enrich the school community. More information is available here: www.qct.edu.au/wtd/excellence-awards.html.



Learnings from disciplinary cases

The vast majority of teachers conduct themselves appropriately in relation to students. However, a small number of teachers come to the attention of the QCT each year for inappropriate behaviour. In certain circumstances, complaints made to the QCT about teachers result in referral to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal which has the power to hear cases and make orders about teachers' registration.

Teachers should be aware that their registration (and their teaching employment) can be affected for a variety of types of behaviour, not only serious misconduct. For example, in one case last year a male teacher had been the subject of numerous complaints over a period of nine years about his interactions with students. His inappropriate behaviour included slapping and pushing students, extensive swearing at students, throwing a ball and a duster at students and generally describing the students in derogatory terms. Although the teacher was required to attend various training courses and undertake counselling, the behaviour did not abate.

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal determined that the allegations were proved. The Tribunal suspended the teacher's registration for 15 months and ordered him to provide a satisfactory psychological report to the QCT before the suspension is lifted.

The Tribunal recognised "*that teachers have a difficult job, especially when students are unco-operative or defiant. Nonetheless, the community reasonably expects that teachers will keep their frustrations in check, and find ways of avoiding outbursts of swearing and physical intimidation. Teachers are expected to model appropriate standards.... This includes appropriate ways of dealing with stress.*"



Fortieth anniversary of teacher registration in Queensland

As indicated above, 2013 marks forty years since teacher registration was introduced in Queensland. We will be featuring this as a theme in QCT eNews throughout the year.

We would like to invite readers of our eNews 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@qct.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.



Join the NAPLAN marking team

Each year about 500 teachers gather in Brisbane for three weeks in May and June to mark approximately 230,000 NAPLAN writing task papers completed by Queensland students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

By joining the marking team, coordinated by the Queensland Studies Authority, you can:

- gain unique insights into how students respond to an "on demand" writing task
- view student work from across Queensland
- recognise how different teaching approaches can be effective
- network with colleagues from many schools and backgrounds.

A further bonus is that NAPLAN marking provides up to three days' continuing professional development towards registration renewal with the Queensland College of Teachers.

The current hourly rates of pay for training and marking are:

- group leader \$43.03
- senior marker \$40.42
- marker \$37.02.

Visit the [QSA website](#) for more information and to apply.



Were you teaching in a natural disaster affected area in Queensland during 2011?

You are invited to participate in a research project to increase our understanding of personal and professional reflections of what it was like to be a teacher in a natural disaster affected area in Queensland during 2011.

This research has ethics approval from the University of Queensland Institutional Human Research Ethics Approval, number 2013000061.

Why is this research being done?

Teachers are in a unique position as long term frontline workers to support children who may have been affected by natural disasters. Teachers provide children with an environment that is safe, routine and one that is conducive to a recovery on a social and emotional level.

What would you have to do?

1. Brief phone survey to determine eligibility (5 minutes) and
2. Face to face open ended question interview (30 mins)

You will be given a \$50 voucher at the completion of your interview.

How will your confidentiality be protected?

As a participant in this research you will be assigned a unique code to de-identify your personal information.

More information?

Please contact Claire Rabaa on 07 3163 2841 or Claire.rabaa@mater.org.au to discuss your interest in this research further.



Support for EQ teachers?

The new [DETE induction website](#) is now LIVE! This valuable resource provides teachers with information about Education Queensland, and offers practical tips, hints and classroom activity ideas.

The website is a central, consistent source of information for all new, transferring and returning teachers to support their induction in Education Queensland state schools and for principals to use when planning best practice induction programs with their staff.



Music Teachers' Project

"[The Music Teachers' Project](#)" was instigated in 2012 with first-year music teachers. It aims to investigate how music teachers'

professional identities develop, and the ways this may impact on their successes as early-career teachers.

Key to this project is the web-based forum www.musicteachersproject.net designed to enable you to communicate with other music teachers (particularly first year teachers). The website provides a space to share your successes, challenges and resources, whilst at the same time contributing valuable information about the prevention of burnout of early-career music teachers, at the crucial juncture where you are first developing your professional identity and teaching approaches.

Project director, Julie Ballantyne (Senior Lecturer in Music Education, University of Queensland), believes the project will benefit you as you begin teaching, as it has already benefitted teachers in 2012. It will certainly assist the profession to know how better to support new music teachers. Please feel free to contact Julie at admin@musicteachersproject.net if you have any questions or suggestions. And please feel free to let others know about this opportunity.

Don't forget to sign up www.musicteachersproject.net!



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