

Returning to Teaching (RTT) Policy

Purpose and rationale

Purpose: To ensure that teachers returning to teaching after a significant absence update their knowledge and skills appropriately

Rationale: The public must be confident that Queensland registered teachers are professional, competent and qualified. Teachers who have had a significant absence from, or only irregular contact with, schools or teaching other educational programs will normally need to update their knowledge and skills regarding curriculum, policies and legislation if they return to teaching.

Scope

This policy applies to fully registered teachers who, on application for renewal of their registration, do not meet the QCT's recency of practice requirement or continue to have a RTT condition on their registration from their previous period of registration.

Policy statement

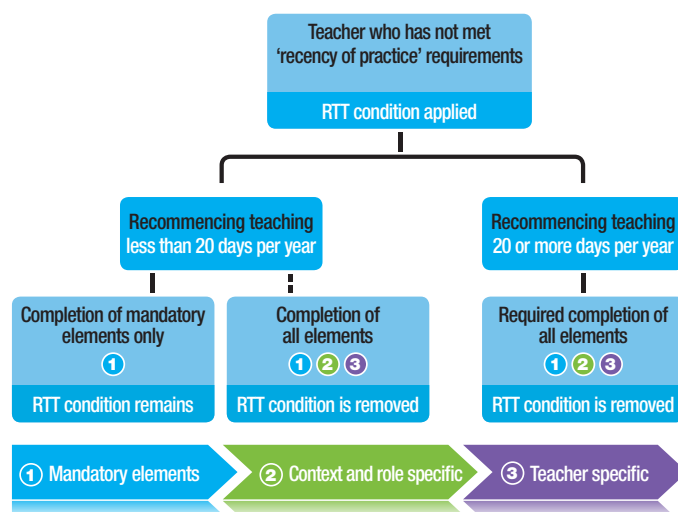
Teachers who do not meet recency of practice requirements at the time of renewal will have an RTT condition placed on their registration. The condition is that if they return to teaching (or have already returned to teaching) an educational program in a Queensland setting they must satisfactorily complete an RTT professional development program.

A teacher with an RTT condition who recommences teaching (or who has already recommenced teaching) must satisfactorily complete the mandatory elements of an RTT program within 12 months of the date they recommence teaching in their five-year registration period (or within 12 months of the date the condition was imposed if they had already recommenced teaching). The condition remains on their registration.

If a teacher with an RTT condition teaches for 20 days or more in any calendar year in their registration period they must complete all RTT program elements within 12 months of the first day of teaching in that calendar year. Notice of successful completion will allow the condition to be removed.

The requirements for RTT professional development are outlined in the *Returning to Teaching guidelines*.

A teacher who does not meet the requirements of a condition on their registration may have their registration suspended or cancelled or their renewal of registration refused.



Definitions

'Educational program' is one based on the Australian curriculum or a syllabus or kindergarten guideline accredited, developed, purchased or revised by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) (Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016 s12(1)). This means the definition includes teachers in early childhood education and care services who are delivering the Queensland kindergarten learning guideline or C&K Building Waterfalls curriculum framework to children in the year before the Preparatory year.

'Fully registered teacher' includes all teachers who hold full registration in Queensland regardless of whether they are teaching full-time or part-time in Queensland schools or equivalent, doing supply or contract teaching, or not teaching at all.

'Professional development' to meet the 'returning to teaching condition' should include a full range of activities, both formal and informal, that develop an individual's skills, knowledge, expertise for their role to which they are returning to.

'Recency of practice' for the purposes of renewal of registration means that within a registration period a person has practised as a teacher on a full- or part-time basis for at least 100 days or has attained the experience that the QCT recognises is equivalent to teaching at a Queensland school for at least 100 days.

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“Registration period” for fully registered teachers is five years from the date of initial registration or the date of renewal of registration.

‘Registered teacher’ is a person who holds full registration or provisional registration under the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*.

‘Renewal’ is when fully registered teachers apply to renew their registration every five years.

‘Teaching’ includes delivering an educational program; assessing student participation in an educational program; or otherwise administering or providing consistent and substantial leadership to an educational program. The teaching must be in a school or in another setting, delivering an educational program prescribed under a regulation. (Schedule 3, *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*)

Related policies and delegations

Continuing Professional Development: Policy and Framework
Policy: Acceptable Notice by a Principal of Satisfactory
Completion of a ‘Returning to Teaching’ Program (Once
reviewed in line with this policy)

Legislation

Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 –
sections 29 – 33, 39 – 44, 45 – 47,

Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016 –
section 11

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Returning to Teaching guideline