

Policy for Accreditation of Transition Scheme Teachers

The Institute of Teachers supports quality teaching in all NSW schools. Its charter is to advance the status and standing of the teaching profession.

The Institute oversees a system of accreditation and recognition of teachers' professional capacity against professional standards. It also provides a process for the profession to influence the quality of teacher training and continuing professional development.

The Institute of Teachers Act 2004 sets out requirements for the accreditation of teachers against Professional Teaching Standards.

Accreditation is mandatory for:

- *New Scheme Teachers* (teachers first employed to teach in NSW after 1 October 2004)
- *Transition Scheme Teachers* (existing teachers without formal qualifications)

This policy statement provides advice on the qualification and accreditation requirements of Transition Scheme Teachers. -

Definition

A *Transition Scheme Teacher* is an existing teacher, that is, a person employed to teach in NSW prior to 1 October 2004, who holds neither a recognised teacher education qualification¹ nor a Bachelor Degree recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework (<http://www.aqf.edu.au/thirteen.htm>).

Qualification Requirements

Transition Scheme Teachers are required to undertake higher education study leading to attainment of a Bachelor Degree or higher qualification in an area related to their teaching responsibilities. A Bachelor Degree is the minimum qualification to be held by an existing teacher.

Transition Scheme Teachers may seek recognition and advanced standing for any vocational or other qualifications held that are recognised under the AQF in order to minimise study requirements,

Transition Scheme Teachers have seven years to obtain the required qualification.

Accreditation Requirements

Transition scheme teachers are to be conditionally accredited while completing the required study.

Transition Scheme Teachers are to be assessed for accreditation at the level of Professional Competence on completion of the required study. Transition Scheme

¹ Recognised teacher education qualifications include two and three year teacher education qualifications issued by a former Australian Teachers' College or Advanced College of Education.

Teachers who do not meet the Standards for Professional Competence within the seven year period may not continue to work as a teacher.

While conditionally accredited, Transition Scheme Teachers are to work under the on-site² supervision of a Teacher who is not themselves provisionally or conditionally accredited.

The Teacher Accreditation Authority for the school in which the teacher is employed is to monitor the progress of the teacher towards obtaining the required qualification during the seven year period

Accreditation Fees

Transition Scheme Teachers who are conditionally accredited are NOT required to pay an annual accreditation fee. An annual accreditation fee will be payable when the teacher is accredited as professionally competent.

Notification of Decision

All accreditation decisions including a decision to refuse accreditation are to be provided to the Institute within 21 days.

² On-site supervision means that the supervisor is working from the same school site. It does not infer direct and continuous in-class supervision.