



TO: MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

FOR NOTING

**RE: RESPONSE TO PREMIER'S LETTER REGARDING BOARDS
AND COMMITTEES: SA TEACHER CERTIFICATION
COMMITTEE (SATCCom)**

Critical Date: 1/10/ 2014

Reason: As per PREM14D03458

ISSUE:

This briefing provides advice to the Minister about the South Australian Teacher Certification Committee (SATCCom) responding to the Premier's intention to reform South Australian Boards and Committees.

BACKGROUND:

The Committee was established as a Ministerial Advisory Committee earlier this year (2014), on legal advice from the three schooling sectors (government, Catholic and Independent). It is the Certifying Authority for the national certification of South Australian teachers and funded through Australian Government National Partnerships Rewards for Great Teachers funding. The intention to establish the Committee was approved by Cabinet on 30 September 2013.

National teacher certification is one of several national policy platforms for quality improvement of the teaching profession. In April 2012 the Australian Ministers of Education endorsed national certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead teachers. National certification uses the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers as a basis for rigorous assessment of teaching quality at higher career stages across Australia.

Individual jurisdictions were given carriage of the implementation of certification with a requirement that this be managed by Certification Authorities. In South Australia the three schooling sectors agreed that collaborative and innovative implementation of certification would be cost efficient, ensure portability of the classification across sectors and common implementation against the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the three sectors to work on implementation to develop joint training of assessors and common procedures for certification coordinated by a cross sectoral Certification Authority.

Other states and territories have responded in varied ways to the implementation of national teacher certification. In the Northern Territory, ACT and NSW certification is being undertaken by the organisations equivalent to SA's Teacher Registration Board. In Western Australia each sector acts as its own certifying authority. Victoria and Queensland are yet to implement certification. In South Australia the Teachers Registration Board did not seek to manage national certification.

As certification of highly accomplished and lead teachers is a new area of work, the Committee has an independent chair and ministerially appointed representatives from the three schooling sectors. A small secretariat (Executive Officer and administrative support) supports the functions of the Committee as outlined at Attachment 1.

The Committee provides a cost effective mechanism for establishing the national innovation of certification in South Australia. Australian Government funding for two years is providing the opportunity to undertake assessor training, develop quality assurance and moderation processes across sectors for certification, and test its sustainability in SA. Teachers contribute to the cost of their certification in each sector, ranging between \$500 and \$1,825, with the intention that this will significantly contribute to the costs associated with their certification assessment.

DISCUSSION:

To date, the work of the Committee has achieved:

- collaborative cross sectoral training of 46 experienced teachers and leaders as nationally trained certification assessors
- endorsement of SA's first Highly Accomplished teacher, with approximately 15 other applications underway and likely to be completed in the near future.
- engagement with three SA universities for the purposes of awarding credit towards Masters programs for teachers gaining Certification or successfully completing assessor training
- agreement on a set of quality assurance protocols
- national benchmarking of teacher evidence portfolios through involvement in the first national moderation workshop
- cross sectoral development of a common training program for 2015.

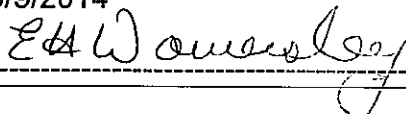
The three schooling sectors strongly support the Committee and its collaborative role in the implementation of national teacher certification in South Australia. The benefits have been affirmed in the practice of the Committee since its establishment in early 2014. The continuation of the Committee as originally intended to its review date in December 2015 is considered necessary by sectors to consolidate the quality and uptake of certification in South Australia. Both the certification process and assessor training have flow on benefits for school improvement, through the focus on rigorous quality teaching and learning practices, which ultimately lead to better educational outcomes. Teacher certification is also consistent with the Government's policies for quality teaching, improving teacher qualifications and attracting more high achieving students to a teaching career.

The continuation of the Committee as a Ministerial Advisory Committee provides it with the status to lead the high standing of teacher certification across education in South Australia. The benefits and efficiencies of cross sector collaboration would be lost if each sector were to take on the certifying authority role individually.

The unique and specific functions of the Committee do not fit with the mandate of any other cross sector governance body at this early stage of teacher certification implementation.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee recommends that the Minister agrees to its continuation as a Ministerial Advisory Committee until December 2015 and respond to the Premier accordingly.

Contact person: Erica Womersley A/Director, Workforce Development [REDACTED] Date: 26/9/2014 	Chair, SATCCom: Jan Patterson [REDACTED] Date: 26/9/2014 
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Minister's Office use: Comments

Minister's Office requires briefings for meetings and events at least 5 working days prior to meeting or event.

Hon Jennifer Rankine MP

/ / 2014

ADVICE

Association of Independent Schools, SA

Catholic Education in SA

Department of Education and Childhood Development, SA

Human Resources and Workforce Development
CORR No. 2014/01122
DATE 26/09/14

Attachment:

Committee's Terms of Reference (extract Memorandum of Understanding)

Attachment 1

SATCCom Terms of Reference

Extract:

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF HIGHLY ACCOMPLISHED TEACHERS AND LEAD TEACHERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

Terms of reference

1. The SA Teacher Certification Committee (SATCCom) will be responsible for ensuring the South Australian schooling sectors meet the requirements for assessment and certification of highly accomplished and lead teachers as required by the National Partnership Agreement on Rewards for Great Teachers.
2. Australian Government funding has been provided to cover the establishment of the Certification Authority and the administration of the certification process. Australian Government funds held by the State will be distributed proportionally to each sector on the basis of its share of the total teacher population (as used by the Australian Government to allocate rewards funds), for the purpose of establishing a joint certification authority. The cost of establishing the SA Teacher Certification Committee (SATCCom) will be met proportionally by the sectors on the basis of their share of the total teacher population. The State will distribute funds to the sectors within three months of the sector heads signing this agreement.
3. The SA Teacher Certification Committee will consist of the following persons appointed by the Minister for Education and Child Development (the Minister);
 - an independent chair, not from the schooling sectors, who has the support of the three sector chief executives
 - a nominee of the Director of Catholic Education SA
 - a nominee of the Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of SA
 - a nominee of the Chief Executive of the Department for Education and Child Development
4. The Minister may appoint a deputy to each member of the committee.
 - The deputy for the chair will not be from the schooling sectors and must have the support of the three sector chief executives.
 - The deputy for the nominee of the Director of Catholic Education SA will be nominated by the Director of Catholic Education SA.

- The deputy for the nominee of the Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of SA will be nominated by the Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of SA.
 - The deputy for the nominee of the Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Child Development will be nominated by Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Child Development.
5. "Members and deputy members will be 'public officials' for the purposes of section 74 of the Public Sector Act 2009 when acting in their capacity as members of the Committee."
 6. In the absence of the chair or a member, that person's deputy may act in the place of the chair or member, as the case may be, and has all the functions, powers and duties of the chair or member respectively.
 7. The SA Teacher Certification Committee will be supported by a secretariat. The secretariat will be responsible to the SATCCom for carrying out agreed functions. DECD will provide the services of DECD employees to perform the work of the secretariat and DECD will provide day to day line management as required.