

Press Release 11 March 2013

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## **AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF DEANS WELCOMES TEACHER EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) welcomes the national approach to broad based entry requirements, improved school partnership arrangements for professional placements, and a focus on academic graduate standards for teacher education announced by Ministers Garrett and Bowen today.

ACDE's President Professor Brenda Cherednichenko said, "The directions outlined by Ministers today builds on the historic 2011 decision of State and Territory Ministers of Education to establish a national approach to the accreditation of initial teacher education programs and Australian Professional Standards for Teachers."

"There has been significant progress since 2011," Professor Cherednichenko said, "but some areas including graduate standards, entry requirements and professional placements have been problematic as providers and state and territory governments move to a new national system."

"The initiatives announced today will provide renewed impetus to address some of these intractable issues. They will further focus efforts to build a teaching workforce informed by research and responsive to diverse student populations, parent and community expectations, and the digital economy.

Professor Cherednichenko particularly welcomed the role of the Australian Government and the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency with its extensive experience in quality assurance and regulation of the higher education sector. "Given our globalised world, providers increasingly operate in both national and international markets and use online modes of delivery," Professor Cherednichenko said. "TEQSA will be in a position to work with universities in a national approach to accreditation for quality programs and effective, streamlined and integrated strategies for compliance and reporting."

"A national approach to professional experience is long overdue. We know that practicum placements are resource intensive for providers and schools, and are most effective with they focus on supporting improved school student learning," Professor Cherednichenko said. "The opportunity afforded by these initiatives will drive innovative practice, a range of delivery options and stronger reciprocal partnerships between schools and providers."

Professor Cherednichenko concluded, "Today's initiatives are both timely and well directed." "Deans of education look forward to working with Universities Australia, TEQSA, state and territory jurisdictions, and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership and to deliver Australia's quality teaching agenda."

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More information

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