



THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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Professor Sue Willis
President
Australian Council of Deans of Education
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Dear Professor Willis

Thank you for your letter of 22 October 2008 concerning the future of the *Improving the Practical Component of Teacher Education* (IPCTE) program. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I am pleased to confirm that the Australian Government will continue the IPCTE program in 2009. In 2009, \$18.378 million will be available, and eligible higher education providers will continue to receive grants in proportion to their student enrolment to assist them to support quality professional experience.

I am also pleased to advise that the \$550 million *Smarter Schools - Quality Teaching National Partnership* includes several pre-service measures that may assist higher education providers to deliver high quality professional experience. The pre-service measures include *School Centres for Teacher Education Excellence* to support quality teaching through the recognition of schools that specialise in supporting pre-service teacher education and *Quality Placements* that will provide training for supervising teachers and teacher education students.

IPCTE arrangements beyond 2009 will be considered as part of the Government's response to the *Review of Australian Higher Education*. The report makes several recommendations that relate to funding for teacher education courses, either as part of suggested changes to the overall funding system or specifically in relation to student contributions.

In your letter, you advocated allocating more resources to the IPCTE program to enable eligible higher education providers to receive grants at the rate of \$450 per equivalent full time student load. Unfortunately, additional funding is not available for the IPCTE program at this time.

I appreciate the constructive engagement you and your fellow Deans maintained throughout the national consultations on teacher education. While there was consistent support for maintaining IPCTE, many stakeholders also highlighted the need for schools to be supported.

I have asked my Department to liaise with you, as the IPCTE program guidelines are developed for 2009, and to discuss with you how IPCTE in 2009 could be linked with the teacher education measures to be implemented under the *Smarter Schools - Quality Teaching National Partnership*.

I look forward to your continued involvement in this process.

Yours sincerely



Julia Gillard
Minister for Education